JULIET GRENVILLE.

VOL. I.

ERRATA.

Vol.	Page.	Line.
Vol. I.	58.	8, 9 for topmaſt, read topmoſt
	120.	ult. take out the comma after which
Vol. II.	53.	11 for naſſailable, r. unaſſailable
	71.	12 for of ſorrows, r. of my ſorrows
	78.	17, 18 for livers, r. livres
	79.	15 for has, r. haſt
	117.	6 for for your, r. by your
	127.	1 for impaſſable, r. impaſſible
	128.	7 for favour, r. fervour
	129.	ult. for that is, r. that it is
	147.	2 for would, r. I would
Vol. III.	161.	1 for claſp, r. clap
	192.	4 for knew, r. new

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JULIET GRENVILLE:

OR, THE

HISTORY

OF THE

HUMAN HEART.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

BY MR. BROOKE.

VOL. I.

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M DCC LXXIV.

BR. MUS.

JULIET GRENVILLE.

WHILE the COUNTESS OF CRANFIELD attended her aſſembly of viſitants to the ſtair-head, ſhe privately beckoned miſs GRENVILLE to ſtay. She then intimated to her ſervants that ſhe was not at home, and withdrew with her young gueſt to a retired apartment.

What is the matter with my ſweet girl, ſaid my lady? you are deeply affected, child: the chearfulneſs that you put on is the only awkward thing that I ever knew about you. Ah, thoſe eyes of yours, JULIET! they are too clear, and too honeſt, not to let us into every emotion of your

heart. Confide in me, my dear; I have all the tenderneſs of a mother for you, with all the indulgence of a friend. You may ſafely repoſe your griefs, and even your failings, upon me. The beſt of us is not exempt from frailty, my girl. Our taſk of virtue is to avoid, not to riſe above temptation. Thoſe temptations are as traitors within a citadel, and each of them is worſe than ten aſſailants without. The heart of woman is of intelligence with her enemies from abroad. An unwary moment may happen to the moſt guarded and reſerved; and this reflection ought to fill us with charity for others.

Your goodneſs, madam, ſaid miſs GRENVILLE, demands my utmoſt confidence. Indeed my heart is by nature ſenſible, and ſubject to many weakneſſes; but has not yet to reproach me with irrecoverable error.

And

And why ſhould error be irrecoverable? rejoined the COUNTESS. I allow that a woman, by one known lapſe, muſt be loſt for a long time to reputation; but opinion cannot bar her return to virtue; and I have known where a ſingle fall has ſerved for enſuring better firmneſs through life. The general misfortune of the ſiſterhood is, that they look on reputation as virtue itſelf; and think, when that is loſt, they have nothing farther to care for.

Women, my darling, are in the nature of towns. To ſpeak in the general, they neither have forces within, nor fences without. But happily, on the other hand, they have little worth attempting. Yet they pride themſelves in having eſcaped pillage, and aſcribe it to their being guarded againſt ſurpriſe.

You, my JULIET, are as the city of Troy: your hoſt of virtues within are ſufficient for a ten years ſiege againſt the

world; and you are walled about seven fold by the fences of christianity. Yet, Troy was taken; and Sinon prevailed by stratagem, where Achilles had assaulted in vain.

But come, my love, if you think me worthy of your confidence, lay all your cares upon me.

That very purpose brought me here, my dearest madam. And yet my griefs are founded on such fantastical weaknesses, that I know not how to begin, and was about to retire without a word of the matter. In short my life is so very unimportant and unintersting, and I have so little of incident or adventure to disclose respecting myself, that I fear to fatigue you with a barren narration. It contains little save the history of my own heart; of sentiments that request you to confirm them where they are right, and to reclaim them where

where they deviate into folly or tranſgreſſion.

The hiſtory of the heart, replied lady CRANFIELD, is the only hiſtory that deſerves man's ſtudy or attention. All elſe is a dead letter, a foreign inventory, a mere catalogue of unconcerning events. Begin then, my lovely JULIET; and be aſſured that your own heart is leſs indulgent to your weakneſſes, and not more fond of your welfare, than is that of your friend.

Miſs GRENVILLE, in a tranſport of tender endearment, claſped her patroneſs to the faireſt boſom that was ever expanded; and thus ventured on a detail, that ſhe conceived of no ſignificance to any ſecond perſon on earth.

To give you, madam, the true hiſtory of a fooliſh and feeling heart, I muſt begin from my earlieſt years. I was born to be unhappy; I was born to love, and

never to fix upon an object anſwerable to my faith or my affections.

I was ſcarce three years old, when I was daily ſent, under the care of an attendant, to a private academy at the houſe of Sir John Elliot, where that gentleman had provided a choice collection of tutors and tutoreſſes for the education of his children.

The firſt object that occurs to memory is the perſon of lord Thomas your little ſon. Though he was two or three years older than I, he took an unaccountable liking to me: he had a wonderful pleaſure in aſſiſting my miſtreſs to teach me my letters: he never quitted me but with regret. Our whole happineſs ſeemed to conſiſt in our being together; and in our hours of play or leiſure, our amuſements received a double delight, from our talking to, and looking at, and touching, and fondly careſſing each other.

Have

Have you ever loved, madam?—I ſee that you have. Are you not of my opinion, that true love can have no regard to ſexes?—I loved even to paſſion, before I knew what ſex was, or that I differed in that reſpect from the object beloved.—Surely, ſurely, madam, a true and virtuous love neither ſeeks nor looks to any ſenſual gratification. It is ſome ſecret power of cordial attraction, or intellectual magnetiſm, that draws the ſoul, from its own place, to the ſearch and the enjoyment of ſome other ſelf, infinitely dearer and more delightful than all that we find at home, either within us, or about us.

There is ſomething in what you ſay, anſwered the Countess, that has not yet been accounted for. I cannot, however, altogether coincide with your ſyſtem of platonics. Mankind have their inſtincts, as well as the irrationals. It is ſufficient for nature, that we are of different ſexes:

ſhe requires not our knowledge or reflection on the buſineſs; but goes forth, agreeable to her own propenſities, in ſearch of that end which ſhe propoſes by the union.

Ah madam! exclaimed miſs GRENVILLE, rob me not of the flattering idea, which I have long entertained, of the purity of that paſſion to which I have been ſo prone. If love is an inſtinct, as you allege, why may it not as well be intellectual as ſenſual? why may it not be that principle, on which God firſt founded ſociety, when he ſaw that it was not good for man to be alone?—Is there not a principle that conſtitutes the coheſion of matter, and may not love alſo be a principle for the coheſion of minds? However that may be, however it may affect or operate in others, in me it is ſurely a principle predominant over even that of ſelf-preſervation. If I ſay that I love you, madam, barely equal with myſelf, I am far from doing juſtice to the warmth of my

my attachment. Love is certainly the ſame propenſity that conſtitutes what we call, by three different appellations, love, friendſhip, and devotion. It is that diveſtiture of our own exiſtence which ſaints feel, when they caſt themſelves on their creator, and deſire to be wholly ſwallowed up of their God.

Kiſs me, my ſweet philoſopher, ſaid the ſmiling COUNTESS. Be not yet deceived, my dear. Though love, friendſhip, and devotion, go from home in ſearch of happineſs, the ſenſations, like the objects, are widely different.

I admit that the affections of friendſhip and devotion may, in ſome few inſtances, have ariſen to paſſion. Yet, they are as different from love, with reſpect to their deſires, as they are from each other with reſpect to their objects.

We can very well ſuppoſe, without any uneaſineſs, that our God, or our friend,

may communicate their affections. Nay we even ſolicit their favour to others, by our prayers and petitions for that benevolent purpoſe. But, can this be ſaid of lovers? No, no, my JULIET; in this caſe alone, the more delicate we are in our ſentiments, the leſs we can bear any thoughts of participation. Love, as Milton finely obſerves, was the ſole propriety in a paradiſe, where all things elſe were common and freely communicable.

But come, my precious child, proceed in your hiſtory. How delighted ſhall I be in tracing, through the fields of native innocence, the mazes and doublings of the human heart divine!

I have told you, madam, continued miſs GRENVILLE, of the extraordinary ſympathy by which your ſon and I became attached to each other, even in thoſe our very early years. I know not what the motive of this attachment might be; but

I well recollect, that I felt no joy like that of giving him joy, and that the ſenſe of his delighting in me was my ſupreme felicity.

Sir John and his lady became ſo exceſſively fond of me, they ſcarce ſuffered my parents to have me, for a day, to themſelves. And thus, month after month, and year after year, paſſed and glided away, in a paradiſiacal delirium of infantine deliciouſneſs.

One day, while my young lover was deeply engaged in entertaining me, he forgot that his leſſon was any part of his buſineſs; when, in comes his Latin maſter, with the terrific enſign of authority waving in his hand. He caſt a look on his pupil that ſufficiently indicated the ſeverity of his intention; but, I inſtantly ruſhed between, flew at him like a little tygreſs, ſnatched the rod from his hand, tore it in a hundred pieces; and then fell into ſuch a fit of tears, and ſobbing, as ſhamed the aſtoniſhed

aſtoniſhed preceptor into a peaceful retreat.

Then it was that my lover approached, his face all in a glow, his eyes and every motion expreſſive of the moſt tender and grateful paſſion. He came round and round, ſweetly cooing and conſoling me. Don't cry my deareſt miſs JULIET, he ſaid; I cannot bear your tears, they are more terrible to me than all the rods in the world. I ſcorn the pain of a whipping; and I would bargain for one at every three hours end, ſo I might have your company in the mean time.

Ay, but maſter Tommy, ſaid I, I muſt not be the cauſe that you ſhould neglect your book. You was told, you know, that no one would reſpect or love you, without your learning; and I wiſh, maſter Tommy, that every one would love you, as much as I wiſh they would love myſelf.

This

This gentle rebuke, from lips ſo beloved, proved more effectual for doubling the diligence of your ſon, than a whole foreſt of birch, or the admonitions of all the ſages of Greece would have done. It was afterwards his cuſtom to bring his tutors, ſeverally, to me, to vouch for him how well he had performed his taſk, that he might pay himſelf, for his pains, by my approbation.

In a few weeks after, while I ſate working at my ſampler, and he reading a little ſtory book for my amuſement beſide me; I ſeized the opportunity now and then, of gazing at him unobſerved with inexpreſſible pleaſure. But, while my attention was divided between my work and my lover, I run the needle a great way into my finger. I ſcreamed out with the ſudden pain, and he inſtantly ſtarted up and turned pale as his ſhirt.

Heav'ns!

Heav'ns! what is the matter, he cried, what ails my JULIET? when, ſeeing the blood flow apace from the wound, he daſhed his book on the ground in a fit of reſentment; he caught my finger in a tender tranſport, took out a cambric handkerchief and continued to ſoak up the blood as it came: he wetted my hand with his tears, and preſſed it repeatedly to his lips, and again to his boſom. Never, ſure, was finger ſo foſtered, ſo bemoaned! I would voluntarily have run my needle into every finger twice as far, to have each of them ſo cheriſhed.

I ſaw that the ſufferings of my little lover exceeded mine twenty fold, and I felt extreme delight in that conſideration; not, ſurely, that I received any pleaſure from his pain, but from the proof that he thereby gave me of his affections.

As I grew confident of my little lord's attachment to me, I grew vain in proportion,

portion, and aſſumed I know not what airs of childiſh importance. When I thought him ſafe on the hook beyond eſcape, notwithſtanding the exceſs of my tenderneſs for him, I took a roguiſh delight in ſporting with his captivity. At intervals I uſed to exerciſe and diſcipline the ſtrength of his affection, by a thouſand little pouting and playful coquetries, in which I know not whether there was moſt of nature or affectation. Ah! many an aching heart I gave myſelf on thoſe occaſions; for that was ever the conſequence of putting him to pain.

Can you tell me, dear madam, are women generally born with quicker and more apprehenſive talents than men? I know it was my caſe. Mine was an extempore genius preceding ſtudy or reflection; and, before I was nine years old, I could have made a fool of any man of nine and fifty, provided he was in good faith a lover.

Ah,

Ah, JULIET, cried lady CRANFIELD, though your remark ſhould be juſt, we may happen to gain nothing on that head. In animals, as in vegetables, the moſt delicate and flowery frames come ſooneſt to maturity, and ſooneſt alſo to decay.

So it proved indeed, madam, with all my little joyous arts and knaviſh coquetries; they quickly attained their perfection, and ſoon after their period.

Shall I not provoke your ladyſhip, by confeſſing how wickedly I uſed to teize your noble child? Many a chaſe have I led him through a thouſand little wildneſſes and doublings of my temper, though I always took care to go no farther than he followed, ſtill turning and marking whether he kept me in ſight.

It was my cuſtom to feign petty ſullens and quarrels, while my heart was in the higheſt

higheſt glee, and never more delighted with him. His uneaſineſs, on theſe occaſions, never failed to give me a painful ſenſation; but the conviction that it alſo gave me of my own power over him, was an ample recompence for what I ſuffered on his account.

At times, when I carried my politics a little too far, and obſerved that he was offended and waxed gloomy, in his turn; it then became my part to coax and conciliate; to aſſure him I was quite friends; that I had been only in joke; and to call him a little fool, and other fondling names. But, if I found that all this was not ſufficient to appeaſe, I quickly dropt the tear of unfeigned affliction: this was what he could not ſtand, and we inſtantly became better friends than ever.

One evening in September, when our taſks were over, we ſmall ones of the academy, among other amuſements, fell on queſtions and commands.

In

In our company was maſter Harry Elliot, ſomewhat older than lord Thomas, and miſs Polly his younger ſiſter, two very amiable children.

The king being appointed, miſs Polly, in rotation, went to know his commands: Go, ſaid his majeſty, and kiſs the fineſt gentleman in all this company.

Alas for poor Polly, ſhe did not wait a ſecond bidding, her election had been made. By an involuntary emotion ſhe flew over to my lovely Tommy, caught him about the neck, and gave him two or three kiſſes with a very good will; when inſtantly recollecting herſelf, ſhe appeared much confuſed, and bluſhed like ſcarlet.

My lover ſeemed no way diſpleaſed at this adventure. The manner of ſuch a preference was very flattering to his vanity; and he caſt a glance at me, as much as to ſay, you ſee, miſs, you do not happen to be quite

ſingular

ſingular in your liking. His deportment inſtantly aſſumed that complacence, which is due to thoſe who give ſuch undeniable proofs of their regard. He roſe, and gracefully bowing, led miſs Polly to her ſeat; when, having ſaluted her cheek, he returned to his ſtation.

Though all this paſſed in little more than a minute, in leſs than that minute I penetrated, diſcuſſed, and comprehended the reſpective emotions of the parties, with their cauſes, and the conſequences that were likely to enſue; and all this I did, while I ſmiled and threw my head aſide, as one wholly diſintereſted and regardleſs of the matter.

Though I could find nothing worthy of blame in this behaviour of my lover, though it was altogether ſuch as a paſſion leſs fervent than mine muſt have approved; yet I felt myſelf angry at heart; and this I deemed a ſufficient reaſon for ſecretly denouncing vengeance againſt him.

When

When maſter Harry Elliot went, in his turn, and requeſted to know his majeſty's injunctions, I command you, ſaid our monarch, to go and pay your compliments to the fineſt lady in company: Rather ſay, cried maſter Harry, to the fineſt lady in the world. Then turning and drawing toward me with a timid and reſpectful air, he bent on one knee, and adventured to kiſs the hand of the little divinity.

Can there be an altar, madam, from which incenſe like this would not be grateful? I felt the injuſtice of refuſing ſome little matter of exaltation to ſuch humility. I inſtantly roſe, curtſied, and offered him my cheek; which, however, he ſcarce touched, but bowing ſtept backward and ſat down as before.

I now felt myſelf in part revenged upon my lover, and I caſt at him a ſide glance of ſatiate malice. – But his eyes met mine with a furious regard, and ſuddenly turning

ing from me, he remained gloomy and diſcompoſed.

In an inſtant, my heart brought me to trial and acquittal; it found itſelf no way intereſted in the offence that had been given; and it reſented this treatment as equally injurious to its love and to its honour.

I, however, attempted at ſome expoſtulating looks; but my lover would no more turn to the ſide where I ſat. O, you have broke your fetters, ſir, it ſeems, ſaid I to myſelf; but you will come back, if you pleaſe, before I call, I aſſure you.

I found myſelf at once moſt tenderly affected, and moſt cruelly diſobliged. I endeavoured to aſſume an air of freedom and vivacity; but the vexation to feel that it would not paſs, diſconcerted and had like to have thrown me quite off my guard.

In a little while after, our time of retiring being at hand, I felt myſelf half eaſed of an inſufferable incumbrance. I roſe the firſt, and ſaluted the company with the moſt gracious air I could put on; then turning to my lover with a ſort of a conſtrained laugh, My lord, ſaid I, I wiſh your lordſhip an agreeable evening. O madam, cried he, bowing low but not deigning to look toward me, I am your moſt obedient! Yours, your's ſir, ſaid I; and away I ſlid.

As ſoon as I had got off I flew to my apartment, but was cruelly chagrined to find my maid there before me. I conſtrained myſelf the beſt I could; but ſhe obſerved that I was full, and very affectionatly enquired what cauſe I had to complain. Little art was wanting here to feign an indiſpoſition: I aſcribed the diſtemper of my heart to my head, and got ſupperleſs into bed with all poſſible diſpatch.

O, my

O, my lady, how lively and poignant are the ſenſations of a young creature, who has ſet up to herſelf a ſingle object of happineſs! love, jealouſy, reſentment, and the pride of conſcious worth ſo unjuſtly rejected, made ſad work within.

I burſt into a flood of tears. My lover roſe to my imagination in a thouſand different ſhapes; now engaged by his new flame, and full of his aſſiduities about miſs Elliot; again returning to myſelf, full of penitence and remorſe, and praying at my feet for pardon and reconcilement. Now, I felt myſelf melted by the inſtances of his tenderneſs; again I ſteeled my heart by the remembrance of his apoſtacy; and I determined, at all events, to die a thouſand deaths, rather than add to his arrogance by the ſmalleſt advance.

For two whole days I kept my chamber, partly through indiſpoſition, but principally to avoid a rencounter with my lover, and to give

give him time to ruminate on the vaſt loſs he had ſuſtained. The third day, going on a viſit to ſome of the miſſes, I met him full at a turn. We both ſtopt and coloured.—Miſs—miſs JULIET—ſaid he heſitatingly—I—I beg to ſpeak a few words with you.

Then it was that my little heart exerted its utmoſt effort, and prided, though to its coſt, in the reſolution of its owner. My lord, ſaid I, with an affected eaſe, I hope another time may do; for the preſent you muſt excuſe me; I am really engaged. I ſpoke, and tore myſelf away; and never was conqueſt or triumph more applauded by the conſciouſneſs of proweſs.

The whole following night I lay reſtleſs and irreſolute. I had painfully ſacrificed all that was due to pride. Nothing farther remained to keep alive the reſentful vivacity of my heart, and I ſunk into a ſickly and unſatisfied langour.

Next morning I aroſe much weakened and indiſpoſed. I was ſcarce dreſſed when lord Tommy ſent in his name. Immediately I ordered him to be admitted, and beckoned my maid to leave the room.

He entered wan and dejected, and fallen away as if he had juſt ariſen from a bed of ſickneſs.—I am come—miſs JULIET—I am come, ſaid he faintly, to take my leave of you.—Your leave of me, ſir?—Yes, indeed—I cannot bear to live any longer in a houſe where I diſpleaſe you; and I am writing to my parents to take me home, or ſend me to ſome other ſchool.—Here I gave him a look of tender expoſtulation, that expreſſed a ſpeech of nine pages at leaſt.—I perceived that his eyes were full, and that the muſcles of his ſweet countenance began to work.—I could hold it no longer: I turned from him, and broke out into a violent fit of weeping.

He attempted to ſpeak to me; but his voice was alſo ſuppreſſed by ſobs, and he was obliged to give vent to the paſſion that oppreſſed him.

Thus we continued for near a quarter of an hour, both of us ſilent, drowned in tears, and averted from each other.

At length my lover turned toward me, and laying hold on my frock, with a diffident and broken accent, May I flatter myſelf, deareſt miſs, ſaid he, that I have any concern in thoſe precious tears? Yes, yes, I anſwered; ſurely, you may; they are all your own, indeed.—O, pardon then, he cried out, ſuddenly caſting himſelf on his knees, can you pardon a wretch who will die, rather than ever offend you again?—Hereupon I turned to him, and tenderly preſſing his little head to my boſom, I do, I do pardon you, maſter Tommy, ſaid I; and pray be ſo good as to pardon me alſo.

I then

I then gently raiſed, and ſeated him, and took a chair beſide him. We leaned fondly over, ſilently regarding one another with a delicious kind of melancholy, while each wiped the tears from the face of the other.

Maſter Tommy, ſaid I at length, do not let us quarrel any more; indeed I ſhall not live long, if you are angry with me. O, my deareſt, he replied, catching my hand to his boſom, never, never will I vex you again. Say what you pleaſe, do what you pleaſe, it is enough that I know you love me; I never can have cauſe for complaint any more.

Have you ſeen the ſea, madam, after a long and violent ſtorm, when the winds ſuddenly ceaſe, and the ſun ſhines forth, and all is quiet and ſmiling around? The waves, though inclined to peace, ſtill murmur and move inward, and cannot immediately recover from the turbulence of their emotion. Such was the ſtate that ſucceeded to this

day's reconciliation, till a quiet and ſound ſleep reſtored me to my accuſtomed health and chearfulneſs.

O, the days of delight, times never to return! ſix whole years of ſuch a happineſs! it was too much for a ſtate from the beginning ordained to miſery on earth! My deſtiny, glutton-like, devoured all its ſweets at firſt; it deſignedly anticipated every enjoyment, to embitter the future by the cruel compariſon.

As my lover had promiſed, this was the laſt quarrel of any importance that we had. Our days paſſed on, in receiving and reflecting, and thereby doubling every pleaſure that we delighted to give each other. He even became enamoured of my little freaks and petulances; and though the vivacity of my temper gave me a thouſand different ſhapes, his paſſion yet found a miſtreſs in every ſhape, and was enchanted by all.

I was

I was now turned of eight, and lord Thomas of eleven, when he gave the firſt alarm to native modeſty, and opened my eyes to a new world of delicacies and decorums, that are requiſite in the commerce between the ſexes.

I had that day put on a new ſuit, with a fine wrought tucker; when my lover, paſſing from ſome other chat to his admiration of the work, ſuddenly put his hand into my boſom.

As I had not yet been admoniſhed that there was any thing very particularly indecent in this action, had I been of the ſect of philoſophers who aſcribe virtue and the economy of the human conduct to reaſon, I ſhould have left his hand there, till I had duly argued and decided on the propriety or impropriety of this behaviour; but I had a much wiſer and readier monitor within.

I inſtantly ſprung back, fury flaſhing from my eyes; and regarding him with a look that ſtruck him pale and ſpeechleſs, Go, ſaid I, unworthy boy! and let me ſee you no more, till you learn the reſpect that is due to the lady deſerving of your love.—He retired, bowing, as in aſſent to his own condemnation, without daring to look upward to the face of his judge, or to plead any thing in mitigation of the ſentence pronounced againſt him.

Though I ſaw my lover no more for that day, I cannot yet ſay that I was very uneaſy. The little conſcious elevation of having done right, perhaps a ſenſe of ſome authority that I had gained over him by this adventure, and the knowledge that I could recal him at pleaſure by reaching forth a pardon, ſerved wonderfully to ſweeten the hours of abſence.

The next morning, as ſoon as I had dreſſed and opened the door of my chamber, the firſt

firſt object that preſented itſelf was my ſuppliant at an awful diſtance. At the ſight of me he dropt on his knees, Pardon, JULIET, he cried, O pardon, heavenly creature, not the fault but the offender who has repented thereof! I ſwear by all that is precious, by thyſelf I ſwear, miſs JULIET, that I know not how it came to paſs, nor by what ſudden motion I dared to tranſgreſs; and here I vow, for the future, to treat you with more reſpect than the Epheſians uſed to pay to their goddeſs Diana.

Well well, ſaid I, half laughing, I find I muſt be friends with you for this time: though I fancy you are a great rogue, maſter Tommy; and I ſhall truſt more, hereafter, to my own fears, than to your vows and promiſes, my friend, I aſſure you.

So ſaying, I ſtretched forth my hand, by way of olive branch, which he eagerly ſeized and half devoured with his kiſſes.

Thenceforth, though we lived together with our uſual fondneſs, yet my lord was very far from being a gainer by the late alarm: he loſt thouſands of thoſe little endearments and careſſes, with which I was accuſtomed to indulge him and myſelf, before he inadvertently put me on my guard.

I ought to have told your ladyſhip, that, before our capital quarrel at queſtions and commands, your ſon had contracted a friendſhip with maſter Harry Elliot. Maſter Harry had obſerved his diſcompoſure and ill temper during our play; but did not chuſe to take notice of it to him before company. Next morning, however, he went early to his chamber, where my lover had juſt riſen after a very unhappy night.

What is the matter, my friend, ſaid maſter Harry? you do not look in good health or good humour this morning. Have you got ever a ſword ſir, ſaid my lord? A ſword, my dear! not I; what ſhould I do with

with a ſword? You muſt provide yourſelf then, ſaid my lord; you ſee mine is ready: you have taken away my miſtreſs, and if you expect to keep her you muſt take my life. I take your miſtreſs, my dear friend? Yes, ſir; ſhe offered you a kiſs yeſterday before company, and that is more than ſhe ever offered me behind backs.

My lord, ſaid maſter Elliot, I own I think miſs JULIET the ſweeteſt miſs in the univerſe; but, ſince your heart is ſet upon her ſo deadly, I will have no more to ſay to her. No ſir, ſaid lord Tommy, I ſcorn to take advantage of any one's generoſity; let him have her, who is willing to ſuffer moſt for her: unkind and falſe as ſhe is, I would run this ſword through my heart to do her any good; and I will now run it through my arm, to try if you love her well enough to follow my example. Hereupon he drew his little ſword ſo ſuddenly, that he wounded himſelf before his friend could prevent him. But, on maſter Elliot's

ſolemn renunciation of my goddeſsſhip, with farther promiſe of all the good offices in his power, this affair, that threatened ſuch tragical conſequences, was peacefully compromiſed.—This maſter Elliot told me, long after the departure of our precious little friend.

But JULIET, ſaid the COUNTESS, you tell me nothing of yourſelf. I remember that, when you were about five years of age, I went, with lord Cranfield and Mr. Goodman, on a viſit to you and our Tommy, and I took the liberty of introducing them into your bedchamber.

You happened to be occupied, at the time, in a very particular manner. You had ſtripped one of your dolls, in order to put a clean ſhift upon it.

The moment that we entered, you ſtarted, as greatly alarmed; and your face, neck, and boſom, were inſtantly covered with ſcarlet,

ſcarlet, in your dread that the men ſhould ſee the nakedneſs of your baby. So, without waiting to ſalute us, you huddled with it into a corner, where lay a parcel of clothes, and there you haſtened to cover it up with all poſſible decency.

I had obſerved the whole of the action with heart-felt delight. I believe I nearly ſtifled you with my kiſſes and careſſes; and I have often ſince told the ſtory, much to the edifying of my own ſex, I aſſure you.

I have farther heard ſome extraordinary circumſtances relating to your infancy: that you uſed to give your ſilk ſlips and laced linen to the beggar children; and that you took a motherly care of a certain little girl, before you yourſelf were ſeven years of age.

Bagatelles, madam! though there is ſomething novel and whimſical enough in the laſt incident.

My father had made me a preſent of a large and elegant babyhouſe, ready furniſhed with ſeveral dolls, and their reſpective equipages.

One evening, my maid being abroad, I was looking out at the parlour window, when a poor woman, with a little infant on her arm, came up and begged my charity. A fancy immediately ſtruck me, and I aſked her if ſhe would let me have that baby to put into my babyhouſe? She anſwered that ſhe would ſell it to me for a crown. I told her I did not know what a crown was, but that I would give her all the money I had in my pocket. The bargain was inſtantly ſtruck; and, the ſtreet door being on the jar, I paid her in ſilver and pence what amounted, at leaſt, to double her demand. I then ſeized my purchaſe with unſpeakable joy, and hurried with it up to my chamber.

There

There I diſpoſed it in the moſt capacious part of my little houſe. I obſerved that it had fingers, and that it moved its eyes and lips. I felt an inconceivable delight in the poſſeſſion, and preferred it to all the fine dolls in the univerſe.

When I had kiſſed and careſſed it for ſome time, it began to ſet up the pipes; I was tranſported anew to find that it had a voice, and I endeavoured to appeaſe it in the beſt manner that I could; but, when I found that my attempts rather ſerved to increaſe its clamour, I left it with precipitation, and ran into lady Elliot's apartment. Madam, madam, ſaid I in alarm, I do not know what to do; here is one of my dolls roaring, and I cannot quiet it for the life of me. One of your dolls, my dear! exclaimed my lady; why that cannot be. Indeed, indeed it is, madam; pray come and ſee!

My

My lady got up in a hurry to ſee this phenomenon, and was followed by ſir John and three or four of their viſitants.

When they came into my chamber, and perceived the little creature ſet up in my babyhouſe, they firſt looked at each other with a ſolemn aſtoniſhment; but, quickly imagining how matters were brought about, they jointly took a fit of laughter, whoſe repeated peals laſted for ſeveral minutes, and put me into I know not what of confuſion and alarm. At laſt, ſaid ſir John, Is this your child, miſs JULIET? Yes ſir, ſaid I curtſying. But, are you the mother of it, my dear? Not I, indeed ſir; I never ſaw it in all my life till this good day. I fancy, continued ſir John, that you muſt be the mother, by your fondneſs for it. La ſir, ſaid I, burſting into tears, and affronted to have my veracity called in queſtion, how can I be its mother, when I never was married?

But,

But, away with theſe pleaſant fooleries!— In ſhort, a nurſe was provided; and in their indulgence to me, ſir John and his lady had the child ſuckled in the houſe. The fairy looking thing is now grown toward woman, is a very amiable girl, and is my ſecretary and companion.

And now, madam, as Milton pathetically expreſſes it, on the fall of the firſt human pair from Paradiſe,—"my notes henceforth "muſt turn to tragic."

My young lover, without notice to me, and without being himſelf appriſed that we were to part for more than a day, was ſuddenly taken from me, nor have I ever ſeen him ſince.

Happy was it, if it is happy to prolong human life, that we were not permitted to take a parting adieu! One, or both of us, muſt have periſhed in the ſeparation.

Alas,

Alas, exclaimed the COUNTESS, and dropped a tear, a fatal ſeparation it was indeed! You have loſt your lover, JULIET, and I my child. His young heart could not ſurvive the abſence of his beloved. He is queſtionleſs dead theſe many years. Since his arrival at Dunkirk we never received a ſyllable concerning him, or his governor, or any of their attendants.

Ah madam, cried miſs GRENVILLE, how was it poſſible that you conſented to his departure? Your ſon, your only child, a ſon ſo accompliſhed, ſo irreſiſtibly engaging, who looked love and delight into all beholders! He, whoſe aſpect and manners might have ſoothed and tamed ſavages, could he not ſoften and conciliate the tempers of thoſe who begot him? Since that heart-breaking period, I never can hear lord CRANFIELD named without ſhuddering.

Be not raſh or reſentful in your judgment, my JULIET: could you read the earl's ſoul, you would pity his ſufferings, and accept his repentance. The beſt of us are people of like paſſions with the worſt; and paſſion, during its regency, never called either reaſon or religion to it's council. If we yield to its firſt impreſſion, we know not how far it may impell us; it is quite impatient of reſtraint and impetuous in its motions, and delights to lay all waſte both within us and about us.—But I will ſhew you, in few words, from what a very ſmall and inſignificant ſpark this fire has been kindled between our families.

My lord and Mr. GRENVILLE were bred together at ſchool and college. Their hearts, from their childhood, like the hearts of Jonathan and David, were knit together; their purſes, their thoughts, lay open to each other; and each of them appeared more intereſted and more alive in his friend, than in himſelf.

Your

Your mother and I alſo, almoſt from our cradles, were linked together in the ſilken bands of pleaſed and pleaſing affection. The two friends wo'od and won us. We contrived to live as near as poſſible, and the houſe of either was more the property of the other than of its owner.

Almoſt in the ſame hour Mrs. GRENVILLE and I were delivered of two ſons, and we gave them to be nurſed, in one houſe, by two ſiſters. In ſome years after, we were alſo delivered of two daughters; but alas, you and my loſt Tommy proved our only ſurviving children!

On the day of our double nuptials, your father and my lord engaged to perpetuate their friendſhip, and the union of their families, by the intermarriage of their future ſons and daughters; and it was with preſent delight, as well as flattering expectation, that we contemplated the daily growing graces of our JULIET, and alſo the growing

ing affections of our Tommy: fond illuſions, pleaſing proſpects, how unexpectedly, how ſuddenly, how bitterly defeated!

At the races of Epſom, thouſands upon thouſands convened and were grouped together from all parts.

The great plate lay between two renowned competitors, the one called Tamerlane and the other Bajazet; for no horſe would adventure to enter againſt them. As they were leading to the poſt, my lord cried out, in the crowd, Nineteen guineas on Tamerlane!—Done, cried Mr. GRENVILLE! when turning and perceiving his friend, I aſk your pardon my lord, he ſaid; had I known it was you, I ſhould not have cloſed the bet.

At a word, the two proud rivals ſhot away, attended by the ſhouts, fears, and panting impatience of the multitude. But the fate of their famed predeceſſors was here

here reverſed; for Tamerlane loſt the day by half a length, as they call it.

My lord then advanced through a crowd of nobles and gentry. Mr. GRENVILLE, ſaid he, here are your nineteen pieces. I thought it had been ninety, ſaid Mr. GRENVILLE careleſly, but very inadvertently. You thought, ſir, you thought! cried my lord and kindled; then, ſir, you ſhall have your thought; here are ninety.—Excuſe me, my lord, I cannot take them, I might be miſtaken.—You might be miſtaken, ſir! exclaimed my lord in a rage; had any man breathing, ſave yourſelf, dared to caſt the moſt diſtant ſuſpicion on my honour, his life ſhould have been the forfeit upon the ſpot.—I would willingly lay down my life for your lordſhip, anſwered your father; but it may not be eaſily taken without my conſent.—My lord then reined his paſſion, to the beſt of his power; and taking out a handful of gold, and daſhing it on the ground, There, ſir, is the money, ſaid he;

if

if you will not deign to ſtoop for it, let thoſe who are leſs haughty be the more benefited.—They then turned from each other and quitted the field, while the money inſtantly vaniſhed among the hands of the rabble.

This proves to you, my JULIET, how very cautious and conſiderate the deareſt friends and deareſt lovers ought to be, if they would have their union more durable than that of the gordian-knot, beyond the latent power of eating jealouſies to looſe, or ſteel to cut in ſunder. Theſe friends, at the time, regarded not the ſum in queſtion a ſixpence; they would at the very inſtant have ſtaked down their fortunes, their lives, for each other: but the matter paſſed in public; and neither of them could brook, in the eye and ear of the world, what in private would not have affected them with the ſlighteſt diſpleaſure.—Nine years are nearly elapſed ſince this affair happened, and neither of

them

them has yet ſpoken to or even ſaluted the other. They queſtionleſs ſigh in ſecret; they find a void in their ſouls, a want of that which once conſtituted their moſt eſſential felicity; they ſtill love while they hate; they ſilently pant to be reconciled; but pride aſks, who ſhall make the firſt advance?

The day after the races, Sir John Elliot and his lady came to dine at our houſe. They had not heard of the difference between the friends; and Sir John began to expatiate with pleaſure, on the greatneſs of the paſſion which our Tommy had conceived for his little angel JULIET, as he affectionately ſtiled you; obſerving that you would make the loveliеſt pair, that ever, out of paradiſe, had been joined in nuptial bands. But my lord tartly replied, that he would rather tie his ſon to the daughter of Barabbas. No no, he continued, I have taken effectual meaſures, in reſpect

reſpect of that matter; and Tom, in a few days, muſt bid adieu to Great Britain.

Accordingly, a governor, and all other appointments being provided, my child was ſuddenly ſent for, and compelled to depart, notwithſtanding his prayers and tears, and my prayers and tears, and even our ſwooning at taking a laſt leave of each other. Such is the fury that animates exaſperated friends! its bitterneſs exceeds every other ſpecies of enmity.

Their antipathy was ſuch that they changed their ſituations, and took houſes, in the town, as far as poſſible from each other: needleſs precaution! alas, thoſe in the ſame houſe, and even in the ſame bed, may be as alienated, and diſtanced, and as the remoteſt parts of the eaſt and weſt aſunder.

But, proceed, my child, my JULIET; thou lovely relict of my Tommy! go on with

with thy ſweet narrative; continue to beguile my cares, and affect a heart that doats upon thee! I obey you, madam, ſaid JULIET; the afflicting ſeparation of your ladyſhip and your ſon, ſufficiently reminds me of the place where I left off.

For a few following days, I kept up tolerably well. The ſoul cannot wholly ſink, where a twig of hope is left to catch at, during its ſtate of drowning privation.

Not ſeeing my Tommy appear, I grew more and more impatient; and no promiſes or puts off could farther avail for conſolation. I ſaw nothing, I found nothing, but a gloomy waſte and vacuity in myſelf and all around.

I walked about the houſe like a perſon juſt famiſhing; I ſeemed to devour every thing with the eagerneſs of my aſpect, but could meet nothing to ſatisfy or abate my cravings.

My

My ſleep forſook me; I turned away from victuals; and my time paſſed, as with thoſe who feel themſelves oppreſſed in a ſickly and afflicting ſlumber.

I could no longer contain. I ſhed torrents of tears: my little heart muſt elſe have burſt. I went about loudly lamenting from room to room, crying, Where is he? ſhall I never, O, ſhall I, ſhall I never ſee him again?

My parents had notice. They were greatly alarmed. I was immediately carried home, and I took to my bed.

The delirium that ſeized me was ſurely that which ſaved my life. Illuſive fancy, at intervals, gave cordials to the ſick and deſponding ſpirit. Methought, at times, that I ſaw, I touched, and talked to my Tommy; we renewed all our ſports, we renewed our endearments, and our little hearts floated in the joys of elyſium.

Again a wind ruſhed between us, and took us off our legs, and hurried us through the air, far, far from each other. Again we met wonderfully, I knew not how nor when; we ſhouted out, we leapt, and flew into one anothers arms; the hour ſeemed too ſhort for this ſingle embrace; the tranſport of meeting, after ſuch a lamented abſence, was too bliſsful, too overwhelming, and nature ſunk away into a peaceful inſenſibility.

At the end of ſix and thirty days, my diſtemper began to take a favourable turn. My eyes opened again to the diſcernment of objects. I turned my languid head, and perceived my deareſt father kneeling at my bedſide. Though my heart had appeared wholly engroſſed by love, it was not yet dead to the filial ſenſations. I faintly ſtretched forth my hand to him; he held it in ſilence, bathed it with his tears, and put it into his boſom. I alſo wept, but my tears gave me no uneaſineſs: I believe they

they rather flowed from the pleaſing perception of that dear father's affections.

Though I was not, for ſome time, permitted to ſpeak, my thoughts were yet at liberty, and the avenues of memory lay open to their accuſtomed and precious ideas. They did not, however, occur with their uſual vivacity; and the languor of my ſpirits ſaved me from an agitation, which, otherwiſe, I ſhould not have been able to ſupport.

However engaging and intereſting the objects of our memory and reflection may be; thoſe objects that ſurround us, and ceaſe not to obtrude themſelves on our ſenſes, will in time come in for their ſhare of our concern, and conſequently abate our paſſion by dividing our attention.

My mother, as you know madam, is, in manners as in perſon, a very amiable woman. She loved me fondly it is true,

but her fondneſs was that of reaſon; it reached the bounds of duty, but did not fly out into any partial exceſs. My father's fondneſs was that of paſſion; he lived in me and for me; and his love exceeded that of the Ptolemy, who deified his daughter after her death.

My father, by inheritance, and by the intereſt of his ſtock in the funds, had amaſſed a vaſt fortune. I was the ſole heir of all his effects, and ſole object of all his attachments. He did every thing about me with the aſſiduity of a lover; he never looked at me but with tenderneſs, nor ever left me but with regret. I ſeemed at once to conſtitute all the buſineſs, and all the amuſement that he had upon earth.

Where a perſon truly loves, every look and every action is expreſſive of love's language. It was a language which my heart was formed to underſtand, and which it failed not to anſwer. That dear parent

and

and I often ſpoke to each other the tendereſt things without moving our lips. He ſtole from me, at leaſt, the half of my paſſion for your ſon; and ſaved my life, by dividing me from the object of my affliction.

Orders had been given, throughout the family, that the name of lord Thomas ſhould never be pronounced in my hearing. And, on my part, whenever the ideas of former ſcenes aroſe, I ſecretly ſighed his name to myſelf; and ſuppreſſed, as much as poſſible, every ſign of concern, that I might ſave my dear father from his portion of my diſtreſs.

As ſoon as I recovered ſufficiently to venture into the air, my father took me in the chariot to all the places of public reſort and amuſement, that, by a variety of buſy and entertaining objects, he might divert and unſeat my ſoul from the dear one on whom it had been ſo fatally fixed.

Sir John Elliot and his lady were, prudently, ſome of the laſt who came to congratulate my parents upon my recovery. As ſoon as they entered the chamber, I felt my colour come and go; but a little ſecret emotion of pride and ſhame helped me to ſtruggle againſt thoſe expreſſions of my concern; and having turned and ſmelled to a ſmall bottle of ſalts, I reaſſumed the appearance of a diſintereſted companion.

In about a month after, I found myſelf as I thought grown very hale and ſtout; and I ventured to preſs my parents to return the viſit of my old friends, and to take me with them.

As ſoon as we entered the well known door, I perceived that I altered. I was then ſorry that I had engaged in this daring exploit; but ſhame would not let me retract; I had gone too far for that. I therefore advanced, and, with a diſſembled courage, ſaluted ſir John, his lady, and my old companions,

panions, maſter Harry, and the two miſs Elliots. But, ſcarce had I ſat down and reviewed the ſcenes of accuſtomed delight, when a ſickneſs came upon me; the furniture, as I thought, began to move and ſwim about me, and I dropt back in my chair.

I knew nothing of what paſſed after, till I awoke, as I imagined, and found myſelf in my own bed, with my parents weeping beſide me.

Ah, my deareſt ſir, my deareſt madam, I cried, I wiſh I had never been born! It ought to be the buſineſs of my life to give you pleaſure; and I am ſent into the world to give you nothing but grief. I accompanied this ſentiment with abundance of tears. They conſoled me the beſt they could; and within two months after, I was reſtored to a tolerable ſtate of health and tranquillity.

During my long illneſs, my father had made a vow, that if it would pleaſe God to re-eſtabliſh my conſtitution and peace of mind, he would appropriate two thouſand pounds a year, toward the maintenance of fifty reduced families, who, with forty pounds each, additional to their own induſtry, might be enabled to live comfortably, and to put up their daily prayers for my proſperity, the only return that he required at their hands.

Common beggars, however, or even people accuſtomed to hardſhips and penury, were not the intended partakers of this donation. My father had been long uſed to conſider the value of money, and to make every pound compaſs what it could reach to. He therefore propoſed to relieve the regrets, the diſtreſſes, the anguiſh of the mind, by the ſame means that ſhould ſupply the vulgar wants of the body. He was ſenſible that, to perſons of a certain delicacy of ſoul, poverty could bring no preſſure,

preſſure, like the ſhame of being reduced thereto, and ſubjected to the ſcorn even of thoſe who were once below them. And farther, that to a generous and feeling heart, no miſery could equal that of ſeeing a beloved wife or helpleſs progeny brought to extremity, by the fault or even misfortune of the man whoſe peculiar duty it was to cheriſh and ſupport them.

Warm as he was on this ſcheme, he took me with him at different times, to ſeveral villages and outlets within ten miles of London, and there bargained for and rented a number of commodious houſes, which he deſtined to the reception of his future colony.

He had told me how deeply I was intereſted in this project; and, by degrees, he engaged me to be equally ſolicitous in the execution.

Succeſsleſs love, and griefs of every kind, have not on earth ſo formidable a foe as buſineſs. In time I became eaſy, and at length I became chearful; but then it was a chearfulneſs of tranquillity, not of joy. My little airs and vivacities were fled for ever; and there ſtill lay a weight at the bottom of my heart, that reſtrained my top-maſt ſpirits from riſing into merriment.

As ſoon as my father thought me ſufficiently reſtored for venturing on a journey, we ſet out on our expedition for ſupplying our fifty houſes with the proper inhabitants; and in this caſe, we acted like the projectors of Blenheim, who firſt built the bridge, and were after at vaſt coſt in bringing the water to it.

We never travelled above fifty miles from London, nor ſtayed out for more than a fortnight at a time, exeept when my mother was with us. And thus, in ſeveral deliberate and agreeable jaunts, we, in leſs than

than three years, made up our quantum of worthy dependents.

As I kept a regular journal book, in which I entered the various occurrences during our travels; I can with truth aſſure your ladyſhip, that, of the ſaid fifty families, there are ſeveral whoſe real hiſtories contain diſtreſſes and incidents much more intereſting and entertaining than thoſe of our yearly cluſter of novels, that rarely ſeem to have any intention ſave to waſte or kill the time of thoſe who are enemies to ſentiment and reflection.

At better leiſure, your ladyſhip may command a detail of ſuch matters; for the preſent, I ſhall barely give you a ſample of our adventures in this way.

We were returning to town from our laſt expedition, when within a quarter of a mile of Epſom, even the town of the fatal quarrel between our dear friends, we over-

took a crowd of people all in clamour and buſtle. We ſtopt; but the noiſes were ſo loud and confuſed, that we could hear nothing diſtinctly, till my ear was arreſted by accents of acquainted diſtreſs. I ſtretched my head from the chariot window, and perceived a young girl of very extraordinary appearance; ſhe had no cap on, her fine hair flew neglected about her ſhoulders, and her gown was a compound of old particoloured ſilks. The diſtraction of her air, the wringing of her hands, and deſperation of her aſpect, inſtantly ſtruck to my heart. But, how was I affected, when I heard her repeatedly exclaim, O, my mother, my mother, my father, my dear father! where would they take you from me? what will become of you, what will become of me? I ſhall die, I ſhall run mad; my mother, my father, Oh, Oh!

My father, naturally tender, had been alſo attentive. He haſtened out of the chariot: Stay here, JULIET, ſaid he, till I ſtep and

and inquire into the meaning of this tumult.

Mean while, I threw open the door on my ſide, and ordered one of the footmen to bring the girl to me. As one who drowns and catches at air, ſhe flew to the ſummons. While ſhe looked eagerly at me, Come up my dear, ſaid I, come up and tell me what grieves you; I will relieve you if I can. O madam, ſhe cried, and dropt on her knees in the dirt, have you pity indeed, is there any pity in the world? I have no friend on earth, none but my father and mother; and my mother is dying; and they are tearing my father from me, I don't know where.

Here I gave her my hand, and helped her into the chariot. I embraced and held her a long time to my boſom. My heart had known much anguiſh, and found a ſiſter-heart in this unhappy girl.

What a ſweet conſolation was this for the young creature! How precious does even a ſingle friend become, at a time that we think ourſelves abandoned by the world!

I aſked her who was her father, and ſhe pointed to a man who ſtood in the crowd. I then deſired the coachman to put forward a little. I ſaw my father expoſtulating with the officers and neighbours; and near him ſtood a tall genteel looking man, whoſe air, aſpect, and attire, preſented the moſt ſtriking picture of famine and wretchedneſs that eye had ever ſeen. His feet had partly made their way through an old pair of ſhoes and blackiſh ſilk ſtockings; on his head was a covering that had been a laced hat; and his cloaths, that were now of a weather-beaten brown, gave evidence here and there that they had once been black velvet.

Was not all this very ridiculous?---O no, madam; this was not the affectation, but ſad neceſſity of finery: it was gentility in ruins; and had ſomething more dreary and ſaddening in the ſurvey, than death itſelf.

Where is your mother my dear, ſaid I to my new companion? There madam, ſhe anſwered, in yonder little houſe within the fields; but ſhe is either dead or dying.

My father, ſaid I, will ſtay here and take care of your dada; ſhall you and I run and ſee what we can do for your mother? Yes, yes, madam, ſaid ſhe in a crazy kind of rapture: but, I ſee that you are not one of us; I know you now, I know you now! and ſo ſhe broke into tears.

Here I jumped out of the chariot, ordered the coachman to attend my father, and deſired the other ſervants to follow me with ſome cakes and cordials.

We flew acroſs the fields like two little lapwings, the ſervants could hardly keep us in ſight, and in a very few minutes we reached the cottage.

The poor woman lay, half on the ground, and half on a ſorry bed, and ſtill continued in the fit into which ſhe had fallen on the caption of her huſband. We threw water in her face and chafed her temples; and, as I held my bottle of ſalts for ſome time to her noſe, ſhe gave a heavy ſigh and opened her eyes.

But then, to ſee the alarming tranſports of my young friend, I thought ſhe muſt utterly have loſt her ſenſes. She jumped, ſhe flew about the houſe like a mad thing, crying, My mother is alive, my mother is alive, as ſure as day!

Ah JULIET, JULIET, exclaimed lady CRANFIELD, love has made you the ſweeteſt ſtory-teller in the univerſe; you ſpeak and look

look nothing but feelings and ſentiment. The heart that has not, like yours, been wrought and tempered by diſtreſs, can never flow through the lips in ſuch affecting elocution. But—give me leiſure to wipe my eyes, and then go on, my child, my angel!

The enraptured daughter, madam, then returned to me. She threw herſelf at my feet, ſhe graſped my legs, my hands, and I verily thought the little life of her would have flown out at her eyes.

Mean while the ſervants came with the wines and confections. We raiſed our patient upon her bed, and having got a ſpoon, I prevailed on her to ſwallow a little of the cordial. She gazed eagerly and wildly at me, but ſoon appeared ſomething conſoled by the compaſſion which ſhe could not but obſerve in my aſpect. CHARLOTTE, ſaid ſhe at length, where is your father? He is well, madam, I anſwered,

ſwered, and in friendly hands; and we will go to him if you pleaſe, as ſoon as you have ſtrengthened yourſelf by a little refreſhment. I then perſuaded her to take ſome cake ſoaked in ſack. She looked at me as if ſhe would look me through. Miſs, ſaid ſhe, with a delicate kind of addreſs, I know not who you can be: it is long ſince I have ſeen any one deſerving the title of human; you, ſurely, muſt be ſomething more.

Here I threw my left arm about her neck, and leaning over I preſſed her, and ſhed a tear on her hand. Do angels weep, ſaid ſhe? I thought they had no ſenſe of the miſeries of our mortality. Come then, ſhe cried, thou bleſſed of our Lord, and attempted to riſe; let us go, that I may have the comfort of breathing my laſt ſigh in the preſence of a huſband, too tenderly beloved to permit me to ſurvive him. Stay, madam, ſaid I, you are yet too faint to walk. John, go and bring the chariot;

you ſhall have a conveyance, madam, that is better ſuited to the weakneſs of your preſent condition.

John had not gone far, when he met the chariot which my father had ſent after me, with directions to come to the George Inn. We quickly got in, my two companions and I, and in a quarter of an hour arrived at the place appointed. But ſure, nothing could equal the aſtoniſhment of the people; they gathered, gaping in wonder, to ſee what ſort of company I had got in my chariot; ſo uncommon, ſo aſtoniſhing, is a little matter of charity and condeſcenſion! But, think you, madam, that they ſhamed me? no truely. I fear I was rather too proud, and inwardly triumphed too highly on the occaſion.

Having ordered a room, I took each of my friends by the hand and led them up ſtairs. Mrs. Sternhold was tolerably de-

cent,

cent, in a clean though coarſe linen gown; but my ambition ſtrait prompted me to ſet forth, to the beſt advantage, the new ſiſter of my affections.

I ordered one of the ſervants to bring up my portmanteau, and another to go and inquire what was become of my father and Mr. Sternhold. This being done, I ſet about my operations. Charlotte was within a year or two of my own age. I locked the door; I took out linen and a ſuit of my own cloaths. I waſhed and combed her, and ſet her fine hair in the beſt order imaginable. I then began to dreſs her: here her mother interpoſed; but that did not ſignify, I would have my humour.

How delightful were the ſenſations that then glanced in my young heart! I ſaw, as it were, a little creature in my own likeneſs, ariſing and new forming under my hands. Not Prometheus, when he had finiſhed the frame of his firſt man, could have

have exulted more than I did; and I became like the famous ſtatuary, I think they call him Pygmalion, quite enamoured of my own handywork.

Indeed, Charlotte looked very lovely in her new habiliments; and women, you know, madam, never envy beauties that are of their own bringing forth.

While this was tranſacting, Mrs. Sternhold looked at me, and then at her daughter with alternate emotion. Her face was overſpread with a placid ſerenity; but I obſerved that her eyes were full, and that the tears drop by drop had moiſtened her apron. What is the matter madam, ſaid I, pray what is it that diſturbs you? Nothing, miſs, ſhe replied. I am only conſidering how it is poſſible that all that is good and amiable in the circle of creation ſhould be got together and compriſed in ſo very little a compaſs! Ah madam, ſaid I, forbear to hurt me by your praiſes; indeed they are worſe

worſe than unneceſſary, and I want no faults.

I had no ſooner ſpoken, than, in the fear of having offended, I flew at her and caught her about the neck; while ſhe in her turn, with a grateful tranſport, eagerly preſſed me to her boſom, and wept aloud.

Soon after, my father arrived. Sir, ſaid I, this is good Mrs. Sternhold, and this is her very pretty daughter miſs Charlotte. Madam, ſaid my father, I bring you comfortable tidings. By the means of an old domeſtic of your father-in-law, I truſt I ſhall detect this whole infernal plot. What a frightful affair this had like to have been! to be accuſed of being the murderer of one's own father; could any thing be more ſhocking? But do not be alarmed, madam. Your huſband, as is ſuggeſted, was tempted thereto by his extreme indigence, in order the more ſpeedily to come at the eſtate. But I have appointed the coroner's inqueſt

to

to ſit on the body of the deceaſed this evening, and I have alſo ſent for all the ſurgeons in the neighbourhood to attend; they will beſt be able to judge whether the wound was given to a living or a dead body. I will alſo be there to confront this wickedeſt of women, with the teſtimony of our old domeſtic. Aſſure yourſelf, Mrs. Sternhold, I will ſpare no kind of coſt or application to bring this matter to a happy iſſue, which I am confident of effecting, and that very ſpeedily.

O ſir, O ſir!—exclaimed Mrs Sternhold—ſhe could no more, but ſunk on her knees, and broke into a paſſion of acknowledging tears.—Pray riſe, cried my dear and tender father; indeed you move me too much, I cannot ſtand this.—But, my huſband, ſir, my huſband, the kindeſt, worthieſt of huſbands! what is become of him?—He is properly accommodated, madam; and wants for nothing but his liberty, which I hope to procure him within a few hours.

Here,

Here, my father raiſed her, and turning to hide his own emotion, rung for dinner.

As ſoon as our ſeveral agitations were compoſed, My JULIET, ſays my father, will you introducc me to your young friend? Indeed, miſs Charlotte, you have a countenance that ſpeaks a ſweet and amiable heart. You affected me greatly to day, when you followed your diſtreſſed father. Will you be a ſiſter to JULIET, my dear? will you accept of me for a ſecond father? —O ſir, anſwered the ſenſible little creature, I believe you are a father to all unhappy children.

While we ſat together at dinner, Mrs. Sternhold, ſays my father, I have heard ſome anecdotes concerning you, that make me curious to learn the whole of your ſtory; or, at leaſt, as much thereof as I with decency may inquire, or you with prudence reveal. Sir, ſhe readily anſwered, I hope you are acquainted with the moſt

ſhameful

ſhameful part of it. After the public diſgrace of this day, I have nothing to diſguiſe. But, ſir, I ſhall comply merely to obey, and not to entertain you. Had I even the art to embelliſh, there is nothing to be formed out of ſuch barren materials.

When the cloth was removed, and the wine ſet on table, Mrs. Sternhold began.

Mr. Dundas, ſir, is my father. He has long lived in the neighbourhood of the deceaſed Mr. Sternhold. He is poſſeſſed of a real eſtate of one thouſand pounds yearly income. I am his only child; and his fortune is ſettled, by articles of intermarriage, on the iſſue of my mother.

I ſcarce remember this mother; ſhe died before I was five years old, and left me in the care of a decayed gentlewoman, who had ſerved her in the double capacity of an attendant and companion.

Though my father and I lived in the ſame houſe, I was eleven years of age before I knew his face. I was perfectly well acquainted with his voice, however: it was generally loud and ſtormy on entering the houſe; and I fled from it into corners, as a fawn would fly to cover on the roaring of a lion.

Mrs. Kindly, my governeſs, was very tender of me. She herſelf had been well educated. She inſtructed me in all ſhe knew; and I was well verſed in accounts, in cookery, and the French language, and far read in hiſtory and our chaſteſt Engliſh authors, before I knew there was ſuch a thing as a world about me.

There was an intimacy of a long ſtanding between my huſband's father and mine. An intimacy I ſay, ſir—for it ought not to be called by the name of friendſhip, when it was not connected by principles of honour or virtue.

They

They had, however, a proverbial apology for this ſort of attachment; they were birds of a feather, and each liked in the other the faults he loved in himſelf.

Both of them had received a ſchool and collegiate education: but the languages neither helped to reform their morals, or to poliſh their manners; they merely ſerved as conduits to convey to them the knowledge of the lewdneſs of the heathen and their gods; and to warrant, by pagan precedents, the ſenſuality of chriſtians. Perhaps this is not an uncommon caſe.

They had married our mothers for money: but alas, our gentle mothers did not marry them for love; they were yoked to theſe brutal huſbands by tyrannical parents, and haſted to get rid of the iniquitous union by death.

My huſband and I were the only lawful iſſue, who were left to inherit the fortunes and virtues of this pair of fathers.

As ſoon as the mild and decent reſtraint of wedlock was diſſolved, they broke forth unlimited into all ſorts of licentiouſneſs. They drank and ſwore at large; and broke the heads and the fences of all, whom poverty had rendered impotent. They were magiſtrates, men of fortune, and men of letters, but not gentlemen. They ſeduced as many wives and daughters as money could tempt; but they deemed that they compenſated for ſuch tranſgreſſions, by ſending all ſtrumpets, except their own, to Bridewell. Could the voice of religion, or the feelings of nature, be heared or attended to amidſt ſuch a life?

On a day that my father had appointed to ſpend abroad, my governeſs invited ſome

ſome female neighbours to an evening's collation. She had pranked me out in my holiday gown; the weather was pleaſant; we drank tea in the garden; and I, like a bird juſt broke from its cage, flew here and there delighted, and played a hundred innocent gambols about the company.

Mean time my father had returned much ſooner than expected, and was walking with his ſteward behind an adjoining hedge. He had obſerved all that paſſed, and getting round to a little ſummer-houſe, called my governeſs to him.

Mrs. Kindly, ſaid he, who is that young thing that you have got in your company? I think I never ſaw ſo ſweet a child. A poor orphan, ſir, who has neither father nor mother: I have taken a liking to her, and intend to leave her heir to all my little ſavings. Will you

bring us acquainted, Mrs. Kindly? Ah ſir, you know you are a very ſad man, and my poor child will ſoon come to woman's eſtate. No Mrs. Kindly, I am not ſo bad as that; I would rather periſh than hurt ſuch innocence as her's.

My governeſs then called me, and they both advanced. But, as ſoon as I perceived a ſtrange man in her company, my ſpirits ſunk at once, and I ſtood ſtill through an apprehenſion of I knew not what.

Miſs Charlotte, ſaid my governeſs, kneel down and aſk bleſſing of your good father here. At this my father ſtarted back in utter amazement. You banter, ſaid he, endeavouring to recover himſelf; this cannot be my child. Indeed but ſhe is; and what makes her much more valuable, ſhe is the child of my dear deceaſed lady.

Here

Here we all continued in an odd kind of ſituation. My father beheld and examined me with mute attention; while I, with a bluſhing face and throbbing heart, continued on my knees, and ſcarce dared to look up, from an awful ſort of terror that juſt then ſeized me: for well I remember, that it was none of thoſe inſtinctive and delightful ſenſibilities, that children are ſaid to feel in the preſence of theſe ſubſtituted authors of our being.

At length I adventured a ſhort glance, in hope of not being obſerved; when I perceived, that my father's lip began to tremble, and that he dropt an involuntary tear upon me. He then raiſed me to his arms, put his face in my little boſom to hide his emotion, and ſuddenly exclaimed, You are, you are my Charlotte, my precious child! but I am much unworthy of being called your father.

Ah ſir, I truſt that God keeps alive, in the moſt debauched hearts, ſome ſecret though ſmothered ember of goodneſs, whereby, with the breath of his grace at pleaſure, he may rekindle and recal his loſt creatures to virtue!

From that time, till near the time of my marriage, he proved indeed a father to me. Whatever liberties he might continue to indulge himſelf in abroad, yet, in reverence, as it ſeemed, to the honour of his daughter, he baniſhed all lewdneſs and riot from his houſe. The delight, which he took in my company, inſenſibly ſtole him from bad cuſtoms and companions; and the pleaſure which he felt, in the ſweet offices and tender relations between parent and child, began to open to him the gates that led to piety and peace.

Thus

Thus I daily grew in the confidence and love of my father till I was turned of the age of fifteen years.

My foſter nurſe, of whom I was exceedingly fond, and whom I looked upon as a ſort of parent, lived in a neat little farm houſe, about a quarter of a mile diſtant; and her I uſed to viſit frequently, either in company with Mrs. Kindly, or attended by my favourite maid.

One evening, as I was entering her cottage, I perceived that I had forgot my work and huffiff, and ſent my maid back for them. I then ſtepped in; but, before I could look about me, my nurſe flew to me, and catching me about the neck, How happy am I now, my dear miſs Charlotte! ſhe exclaimed; I have now got all my treaſure together. Here is your brother, my love, pointing to a youth who ſtood at ſome diſtance. You are the only two that were ever ſuckled

on theſe breaſts; my fleſh and blood is in you both. What a ſweet couple you are! what a pity you ſhould ever be parted! Could I but live to dandle your little one in my old arms, methinks I ſhould die quite contented and happy.

Theſe apoſtrophes of my good nurſe were not without their effect. I caſt on this new relation a reconnoitring glance; and, quick as a glimpſe of lightning, I was ſtruck with an intimation, that we were made, or that I wiſhed we were made, for each other.

Under the colour of this new kindred, ſo well accounted for by our nurſe, this young gentleman and I commenced a very ſpeedy and tender intercourſe. We did not, indeed, make any formal appointments; but it was wonderful to think how often we uſed to meet at our nurſe's, as it were by mere chance. This good woman, I knew not why, became

vaſtly

vaſtly dearer to me than ever; freſh pretences daily occurred for going to her houſe; and the intermediate time ſeemed to me a vacuity, or rather a heavy burden that I wiſhed to be rid of.

In the mean time, young Mr. Sternhold was too reſpectful, or too baſhful, to make any expreſs declaration of his paſſion. We underſtood one another perfectly well, however; we converſed by a language much more intelligible, and more to be credited, than that of words: and when we came to expreſs our ſentiments, we found that we had nothing new to tell each other on the ſubject; but the repetition was extremely delicious, and love aroſe in my young heart, as an early ſun, enlightening, chearing, and beautifying every object about me.

My lover, for many years, had been wholly a ſtranger to the place of

his nativity; his father had ſent him early to ſchool, and from thence to college; and he was but lately returned from finiſhing his ſtudies. His ſtudies, however, were not the makers of his morals; he had inherited from his mother her gentle, her delicate and affectionate diſpoſition: to hear him, was inſtruction; to behold him, was delight; and to know him, and not love him, was, as I thought, a proof of utter inſenſibility.

I ſay not this, my honoured ſir, to exalt myſelf or my huſband to your eſteem; I ſay it, merely to apologize for my paſſion in his favour, which, otherwiſe, might be deemed even worſe than premature. At length our propenſities to each other became as that of the ſtar and magnet, irreſiſtable, irremovable; and, in the preſence of our nurſe, we plighted our vows, that no authority of parents, no viciſſitudes of fortune, no conſtraint or power on earth,

ſhould ever compel us to give or yield our hand to another.

Ah ſir, on the very evening of that day, in which our lips had barely affirmed the vows of our ſouls, my father came up to my chamber, and, in a manner as unconcerned as though he were telling me how he had jockeyed his neighbour in the ſale of a horſe, ſaid he had made a great match for me, and that I muſt be married to one of his neighbours the next morning.

I inſtantly turned pale; a weakneſs went through all my joints; and, had I not been uncommonly healthful at the time, I ſhould queſtionleſs have dropt ſenſeleſs or dead at his foot.

Sir, ſaid I at length, plucking up a little courage, at preſent I cannot marry; neither will I ever marry, till I ſee the man that I can like. O, ſaid he, deliberately

berately and maliciouſly ſmiling, we can readily find means to tame a rebel. You are an heireſs, Charlotte, and muſt not be wedded in the common way: you are as one of the princeſſes of the blood; you muſt be yoked by proxy, according to your ſtate and ſtation, and not according to the loves and likings of a ſilly and conceited girl. Sir, ſaid I peremptorily, I will not be a proſtitute; all the fathers in the world ſhall never rank me in that claſs; for every woman is a proſtitute who gives up her body unaccompanied by her heart. You impudent gipſy, he cried, would you make your mother a ſtrumpet? She loved me not, neither before nor after our marriage; and ſo you, I find, would illegitimate your own birth. But, digeſt matters as well as you may for this night; your marriage in the morning is as fixed as fate: and ſo ſaying, he flung out of my chamber.

I then fell along the floor, but not wholly deprived of ſenſe; that would have

have been happineſs, in compariſon of what I felt. I remained partly awake, but awake only to horror and deſperation. Dagger, poiſon, or quick thunder, a ſudden death of any kind, was all my wiſh. My governeſs and my maid came in in a hurry, and Mrs. Kindly wept tenderly and abundantly over me; but alas, ſhe could ſay nothing to comfort me, for ſhe could do nothing to relieve me. They undreſſed and put me to bed, and all the night I lay ſleepleſs, and in agonies not to be conceived. Yes, I would cry at intervals, my love, my David, my darling, I will ſtill be conſtant and faithful to you! not all the racks, the tortures and engines in the world, ſhall ever be able to tear a limb of me from my beloved!

In the morning, my father had me forcibly dreſſed in all my odious ornaments and deteſtable finery. Sir, I obſtinately cried, you may as well deſiſt, this will not anſwer your ends; diſinherit me and welcome;

welcome; drive me forth to beggary, to leſs than a morſel of bread; but you never ſhall compel me to a bed that my ſoul abominates; I would rather lie down in the midſt of ſnakes and vipers!—He looked wrath and hatred, but ſaid not a word.

When the coach drove up to the door, my father graſped my arm, and puſhed me, and authoritatively ordered me to get in; but I ſtruggled and peremptorily refuſed to obey: whereupon he took out his handkerchief and bound my arms together, and ordering me to be lifted into the carriage, he ſat down beſide me.

During a journey of a few miles, we never once opened our lips to each other. I determined however, within myſelf, to prevent the power of ſpeech, by biting off my tongue, rather than utter the word,

word, yes, to any man living except my David.

As we approached the houſe of doctor Dawſon, the gouty rector of the pariſh, a glance ſhewed me, on one ſide, another coach coming up on a different road, and preceded by a car whereon a criminal was tied, in order, as I imagined, to be brought before the magiſtrate. Alas, ſaid I to myſelf, would to heaven that, how great ſoever your puniſhment may be, it might be exchanged for mine! ſo apt is miſery to think itſelf, beyond all caſes and conditions, the moſt deſolate and moſt miſerable.

My father ſtepped out, and I was carried into the preſence of the reverend doctor Dawſon, who painfully ſat in an eaſy and very ſtately armed chair. Doctor, ſaid my father, I have brought to you a young reprobate, a rebel that refuſes to ſubmit to any authority, whether

ther it be from nature, from her king, or her God.

While my father was ſpeaking, another party was brought in, bound hand and foot, and equally accuſed before the judgment ſeat of the dignified doctor Dawſon. At a look I was convinced that it was my David himſelf; but, though my throbbings ceaſed not to beat, I did my very utmoſt to ſuppreſs my emotions. My lover, on perceiving me, gave a ſhout of triumphant joy; but I turned away, and would not ſeem to take any notice of him.

How comes it to paſs, ſir, that though your ſex have reaſon, ſenſe, and ſolidity quite away to themſelves, yet ours are vaſtly more quick, apprehenſive, and provident, on any ſudden emergence? I inſtantly penetrated through this divine and wonderful diſpenſation of Providence; my heart bleſſed him in ſecret; but

but I thought it beſt, for a time, to ſuppreſs any open expreſſions of my acknowledgement.

My lover ſoon caught his leſſon, and we turned away and appeared quite averſe to each other; while doctor Dawſon preached to us a very expatiating lecture, on the neceſſity of mortifying our carnal deſires, and of yielding them to the dictates of obedience and purity.

We were brought together, our hands were joined, and we muttered ſome words inarticulately, I know not what, while our faces were deſignedly and hypocritically averted from each other.

We were carried home. Old Mr. Sternhold, and the whole country gathered to our houſe; and all would have been a conſummation of joy and feſtivity, had they not been damped by the demeanour of the bridegroom and bride.

While

While we ſecretly ſummed up in our hearts a thouſand fold all their enjoyments.

When, according to cuſtom, we were undreſſed and put to bed, my David turned cautiouſly and tremblingly toward me, and I graſped him to my boſom with unſpeakable delight. But, again, putting him from me, My David, ſaid I, we have this day been bleſſed with the moſt extraordinary inſtance of God's gracious intervention, that perhaps ever happened in the circle of exiſtence. Do you remember the ſtory of Sarah and Tobias? They alſo loved to exceſs; and yet, in the conſideration of what God had done for them, they aroſe and fell on their knees, and promiſed that they would not be the children of luſt or concupiſcence; and I am told, that, for three days and three longer nights, they abſtained from the gratification of any connubial privilege. Let us do the ſame,

my

my David; and God, mayhap, may bleſs us, even as he bleſſed his own Tobias and Sarah.

O my angel, he cried, catching at my hand, but not daring to touch any other part of my perſon, I here vow that I will ever be conformable to all your deſires, however repugnant they may prove to my paſſions or inclinations. And I exceedingly rejoice, that my Charlotte, while ſhe mortifies her David, gives him ſtill the greater cauſe to affect and revere her.

Marriage, ſir, almoſt as ſurely as death, puts a ſtop to the progreſs of all ſtory-tellers: however, I muſt go on a little farther.

During the nine years in which we continued with my father, I was delivered of ſeveral children; but none lived except

except the eldeſt, who has the honour to ſit in your preſence.

At length my father, being quite weary of the reſtraint under which our company had laid him, and impatient to give a looſe to his accuſtomed debaucheries, ſought occaſion to pick a quarrel with my huſband, and thereupon deſired us to depart his houſe.

We accordingly removed to the houſe of my father-in-law, who, for near three years, demeaned himſelf toward us with tenderneſs and generoſity.

One day, however, being abroad upon one of his raking rambles, while he was taking ſome liberties with a woman in the neighbourhood, a bluſtering young man broke in ſuddenly upon them, and demanded, with a volley of oaths and execrations, how he dared to take indecent freedoms with his kinſwoman. He then drew his ſword,

ſword, and ſwore that Mr. Sternhold ſhould fight him on the ſpot; for, that nothing but immediate death, or immediate marriage, could make reparation for the injury he had done.

An evil conſcience, ſir, I fancy, is no great promoter of courage. Mr. Sternhold, wholly intimidated, preferred marriage to death; and on that very night preſented us with a ſtep-dame.

For a few weeks we lived together in a kind of reſerved and cautious tranquillity, till our new couſin, the bravo, began to frequent the houſe, and to aſſume authority over the ſervants, and intermeddle in all concerns. My huſband, thereupon, pleaſed with an opportunity of revenging his father's quarrel, took the bully to queſtion. High words aroſe, they both flew to their ſwords, and my David ran his Goliah quite through the right ſhoulder.

We all ran in at the ſound of the claſhing of ſwords; and it was then that our ſtep-mother ſtood confeſſed to view. She grew utterly outrageous: ſhe curſed and ſwore in terms that ſeemed no ſtrangers to her tongue. She then dropt on her knees and vowed, with horrid imprecations, that ſhe would give her huſband no reſt, either at bed or at board, while the murderer, his ſon, ſhould continue in the houſe. It will be my turn next to be ſure, ſhe cried, and your own will ſoon follow; that the parricide, through your blood, may come at your eſtate.

Mr. Sternhold, all alarmed and terrified, then called his ſon aſide. David, ſaid he, I muſt have peace at any rate. You ſee, therefore, my child, there is a neceſſity that we ſhould part; but I will allow you handſomely for your maintenance; and ſo ſaying, he put twenty guineas into his hand, being the very

laſt

laſt we ever ſaw of his money. My David then turned, and departed without a word; though not without a tear, being grieved at the ſtate to which his father had reduced himſelf by his puſillanimity.

On the next day, my huſband went and farmed the little lodge, wherein your angel of a daughter found me this morning. The day following he went to pay his reſpects to my precious father, even Mr. Dundas: but there, all acceſs was utterly precluded. He was beſieged and in the cuſtody of a large ſeraglio of ſtrumpets, whoſe buſineſs it was to provoke and ſtimulate his impotence, by methods too ſhocking for terms to expreſs, or thought to conceive.

Thus ſhut out, on all ſides, by thoſe on whom nature had given us a claim for ſuſtenance, we lived frugally for ſix

months on the ſlender means we had. My David then attempted to apply to his father for the ſtipulated maintenance; but alas, neither meſſenger nor letter could reach him. Our ſtep-dame had introduced a whole group of new couſins, by whoſe aſſiſtance ſhe lorded it over houſe and lands, and held my father-in-law in worſe than Egyptian bondage.

Then it was, that our diſtreſs grew weighty and more weighty; and daily ſunk and cruſhed us into penury, into bitterneſs. Perhaps our caſe was the moſt extraordinary that ever happened. We were, each of us, heir to a large and affluent fortune; and yet were periſhing, with our little one, for want of a morſel of bread. We had diſpoſed of the laſt of our moveables, and even of the very laſt of our cloaths that were ſaleable; when this morning, before day, a meſſenger came in heat to inform my huſband,

huſband, that his father was dying and deſired to ſpeak with him, in all haſte.

My David rouſed in a hurry and flew to the ſummons: I alſo roſe and dreſſed, and ſat palpitating and expecting; when, on the advance of the day, I ſtarted up at the ſound of a ſhout of lamentation; and quickly after a number of my poor female neighbours ruſhed in, and told me, that my huſband had been ſeized, and was carrying off to jail, for the murder of his father.

Though I was perfectly aſſured, as I was of exiſtence, that it was impoſſible for my David to be guilty of the crime imputed; yet it inſtantly occurred, that Naboth, and even our Chriſt was condemned upon falſe evidence; and, as my terrors became inſupportable, I fainted away.

Here the gentlewoman cloſed her hiſtory, for which my father thanked her, and gave her repeated aſſurances of his farther ſervice and regards. Then riſing, he haſtily went to meet the inqueſt appointed on the body of the deceaſed; and left us all in fears and hopes and impatience of his ſpeedy return.

In about an hour after tea, my father came back with a face of triumph. Madam, ſaid he, I bring you the happieſt of tidings! you are now in the poſſeſſion of fourteen hundred pounds a year; and the wretch, your ſtep-mother, yet that may give little joy to one of your diſpoſition, is cut off from among the living by a moſt fearful death. But madam, ſaid he, ſitting down, I will tell you the whole affair in the order that it happened.

When I got to Mr. Sternhold's, I found three ſurgeons before me, and two

two more ſoon joined them; the jury alſo began to gather apace. I then ordered all, except your ſtep-dame and the domeſtics, the ſurgeons and the jury, to depart the houſe, and I deſired the ſurgeons to proceed on their buſineſs.

On examining the great wound in the ſide of the deceaſed, they were of opinion that it was made by a caſe-knife; and they unanimouſly agreed, that the ſaid wound had been given to a dead body, and that no blood had ever flowed from the ſame; foraſmuch as the gaſh was no way diſcoloured or enflamed, and the blood appeared to be equally coagulated throughout the body.

I then ſent for Arnold, the grey domeſtic of your father-in-law, and giving him the book, he clearly depoſed that, on the night preceding, having heard that his old maſter was exceedingly ill,

love and curioſity emboldened him to open the door cautiouſly; and, peeping in, he perceived his maſter in the gaſpings and laſt ſtruggles of death, with his wife and her two women ſitting beſide the bed; whereupon he withdrew, affrighted and grieved: and that his young maſter had not been ſent to, for ſeveral hours after.

Upon theſe concurring evidences, the jury brought in their verdict, that the deceaſed had died a natural death; and that the wound had been given to the dead body, through ſome very wicked and malicious intention.

I then commanded Mrs. Sternhold, and her confederate maids, to be taken into ſtrict cuſtody; and, calling for pen and paper, I wrote their mittimus, and, with a ſevere accent ordered them inſtantly to jail.

Then

Then it was that her effrontery, with all her arts and ſubterfuges, at once abandoned her to juſtice: ſhe ſunk all aſtoniſhed and diſtracted at my feet, Woman, ſaid I ſternly, you will be condemned of petty treaſon; you will ſuffer a fearful death for the murder of your huſband: and you ought to ſuffer a hundred deaths more fearful, for the intentional murder of your innocent ſtepſon.

She then broke into lamentation; ſhe cried aloud for mercy; and, on her knees, offered to avow the whole of her guilt.

On the firſt night, ſaid ſhe, in which I entered the houſe of my huſband, I took an inſtant antipathy to his ſon. For, I obſerved he had a diſtant look and a penetrating eye, and I conſidered him as the future watch upon all my actions. I ſaw that his intereſts and

my intereſts were incompatible; and ſo my hatred to him encreaſed and became ſtronger and ſtronger, till it burned as a hidden fire within my boſom. In the mean time, I conceived hopes of ſupplanting and diſinheriting him; and, for that purpoſe, I exerted the utmoſt of my art, to cajole and get the aſcendant over my huſband. I knew that, by law, I ſhould be entitled to a full third of my huſband's great poſſeſſions; but all this appeared as nothing, or leſs than nothing, in my eye, while I reflected that his ſon's portion would be twofold my dowry. This thought ſat, like a vulture, continually gnawing at my heart; and, had he continued in the houſe, I ſhould certainly have been tempted to remove him by poiſon or other means.

Juſt then, young Mr. Sternhold came in; when, giving a loud ſhriek, ſhe vehemently cried out, Take him from me, take him from me! and uttering ſhriek after

after ſhriek, ſhe was ſeized with an apoplexy, or ſudden ſuffocation, and dropping down, ſhe grew black in the face, glared frightfully about, and with a deep groan expired.

I proteſt I was deeply affected. Humanity, however averſe to the object, muſt feel for human nature in ſuch calamitous circumſtances. Your kind hearted David was as ſollicitous as any of us, to bring his enemy back to life; but all our efforts were ineffectual.

Soon after, I gathered, from the confeſſion of the parties to this horrid conſpiracy, that this deſigning woman, thinking that no perſon was privy to the death of her huſband, ſave herſelf and her maids, had bribed them largely to conceal it; and ordering them to bring her a bowl of the blood of ſome poultry, ſhe made an inciſion in the ſide of the inſenſible carcaſs, and then drenched

the ſhirt and ſheets all about with the blood.

She thereupon ſent in haſte for her unwary ſtep-ſon, and on his arrival whiſperingly told him that his father had juſt fallen aſleep, but deſired him to ſtep in ſoftly and ſit down by the fire till he ſhould waken.

After he had patiently ſat for near an hour, ſhe followed him in on tiptoe, and moving to the bed, gently opened the curtain; and, in a ſoft voice, demanded of the deceaſed how he found himſelf; but feigning ſurpriſe, on her not receiving an anſwer, ſhe violently toſſed back the curtains, and throwing open the bedclothes, ſhe vociferated murder, murder! in repeated ſhouts and ſcreams.

On this alarm the whole family crouded haſtily into the room; the cry of murder became general; the neighbourhood were

rouſed

rouſed thereby, and ran from all parts to the houſe; and your ſilently aſtoniſhed David was ſeized, and, by order of his ſtep-dame, hurried away to be lodged in goal.

I do not think, however, that ſhe intended to carry this affair to extremity. She could not but be ſenſible, that the death of your huſband would not avail for inveſting her with the eſtate, as new heirs would ariſe on the lapſe of his title. I rather imagine that ſhe propoſed, by this ſtratagem, firſt to ſecrete to herſelf her huſband's whole perſonal fortune; and afterwards to intimidate her ſtep-ſon into a compoſition, perhaps for more than a moiety of the landed intereſt. But the overſeeing friend of innocence and virtue has ſuddenly cut her and her machinations in ſunder.

In ſome time after my father had cloſed his relation, Mr. Sternhold came

to us, genteelly dreſſed in a ſuit of black: he had an exceeding comely perſon, and his aſpect was ſtill more engaging. He approached; and bowing down almoſt to proſtration, he fervently kiſſed the hands of my father and your JULIET: This, this, he cried, is the altar, the ineſtimable altar, on which the whole that I have and am ought to be laid for an oblation.

He then put his hand into his boſom and took out a diamond necklace and ſolitaire: Theſe, ſaid he, I found (and he wiped his eye) in a ſecret drawer of my deareſt mother's little ivory cabinet; with theſe ſhe was mournfully adorned, the night of her nuptials; and I became the offspring, as well of her tears, as her affections. Theſe, miſs, you muſt accept, as matters that I cannot keep; for I will not be tempted to add another tear to the ſhowers that I have ſhed to the memory of that dear departed ſaint.— Nay, madam, you muſt accept them, compa-

comparatively trifling as they are. Should I look to pay you as you ought to be paid, I muſt find out larger eſtates, and worlds of better value, to compenſate for the lives, the credits, and fortunes, that your father has this day reſtored to me and mine.

I was affected to paſſion, madam, by the nobleneſs of his ſentiments. I took the jewels from his hand, and dropped a tear upon them. You ſay right, ſir, I cried, I will not be put off with ſuch treaſures as theſe; you muſt go to another world for the jewels that I require; you have accordingly brought them to me from above, and the ſenſe you have ſhewn of what we wiſhed to do for you makes a dear and a ſweet hoard of riches to my heart.

I then took this ſumptuous offering, and, having faſtened it about the reluctant neck of the amiable little Charlotte,

I kiſſed

I kiſſed her, and ſaid, You muſt wear theſe, my love, for the ſake of your friends; and, at times, when you put them on, be pleaſed to think of your grandmamma, and alſo of your little ſiſter.

Here Mr. and Mrs. Sternhold turned ſuddenly from us, and haſtily withdrew, together, to an adjoining chamber; while my father eagerly claſped and long preſſed me to his boſom, crying, O my JULIET, my wealth and jewels, and all abundant ornaments, how doſt thou daily enrich the ſoul of thy father!

In about an hour our friends returned, and we ſat down ſilently together; when my father, being uneaſy in the apprehenſion of farther acknowledgments, endeavoured to put his company upon a different ſubject. I wiſh to know, madam, ſaid he, what we now can or ought to do with your father, the naughty

Mr.

Mr. Dundas. Alas ſir, ſhe anſwered, there is nothing to be done with him; ſuch a ſinner, at his age, is queſtionleſs irreclaimable. I know not that, madam: ſober ſinners, in the general, make but very ſober ſaints; while profligates, like ſpendthrifts who have caſt away nearly their whole eſtates, ſet out in an adverſe courſe, with tenfold diligence and ſaving. With reſpect to his fortune, madam, if his fortune would content you, I think your huſband legally entitled to take him into cuſtody on an action of lunacy; for ſurely, a man, who acts ſo utterly oppoſite to reaſon and nature, cannot be ſuppoſed to be in his right ſenſes.

O no ſir, no, exclaimed Mr. Sternhold, I will never do the ſmalleſt violence or diſcredit to the man, who has done me the grace and benefit of bringing my Charlotte into the world.

Worthy

Worthy man, amiable friend! cried out my father, his eye gliſtening while he graſped and held him by the hand, you ſpeak the ſenſe of my inmoſt ſoul. Yet ſomething ought to be attempted; we muſt ſurely do ſomething toward the recovery of our father from this his loſt eſtate. Thoſe pitiable females too, the aſſociates of his profligacy, I wiſh to reclaim them alſo from their preſent ſtate of proſtitution. It is evident to me, that luſt has little to do in ſubjecting them to the wanton dotage of your father; his time of life muſt have reduced him to a ſtate of impotence; but his power of beſtowing food and raiment has tempted them to ſubmit to any other conditions he ſhould be pleaſed to impoſe. But I am determined, if poſſible, to judge of theſe matters by my own eye and obſervation. While you go, Mr. Sternhold, to order matters for your father's funeral, I will enterpriſe an admiſſion into Mr. Dundas's enchanted caſtle; and, if I

get

get acceſs to him, I will preſent him with a card of ſolemn invitation to the interment of his old friend and companion in iniquity: I think it cannot fail of ſuddenly recalling him to ſerioufneſs and reflection; and reflection may lead onward to reformation.

Late in the evening, my father attired himſelf in a porter's frock and apron, and, wrapping his cloak about him, he ſtepped into the chariot and departed on his expedition. Sometime before ſupper, Mr. Sternhold and he, ſeverally, returned to their company.

As a callow pigeon, in the abſence of its ſuſtaining parent, I remained impatient and anxious while my father was away; and the apprehenſions of what might happen, roſe as diſtreſſing to my imagination, as though he ſtood wounded or nearly murdered before me.

On ſeeing him enter, before I flew to him, I caſt upon him a glance of quick and earneſt inquiſition; but obſerving him ſmile, I threw my tears behind me, and inſtantly kindled into new life and ſpirits.

When we had all joyfully congratulated him on his return, he perceived our impatience to know what had paſſed, and immediately ſat down to gratify our curioſity.

As ſoon as I arrived within ſight of the fortreſs, I left my carriage and cloak and ſervants in waiting, and walked ſoberly along to reconnoitre the place of my deſtined aſſault. The houſe was circled by a moat, quite impaſſable, at leaſt to viſitants; and over the moat a wooden bridge was laid, to be occaſionally taken up or let down at pleaſure. I advanced to croſs the bridge, but was ſtopped by a gate ſtrongly bolted on the farther

ther ſide. I then looked about for a knocker, or handle or ſtring to a bell, but none ſuch was to be found. At length, I perceived a little horn that hung along ſide a poſt, and, putting it to my mouth, I made many an effort, before I could enforce it to any utterance. Happily, at laſt, it ſounded aloud, and a buſhy head of griſled hair thruſt itſelf forth from one of the upper caſements. What is your buſineſs, cried the watcher? to which queſtion I anſwered, by holding up my card, and facing it with a couple of crowns which I cauſed to glitter in his eye. He then looked about on all ſides, and aſked if there were any other perſons behind me? When I aſſured him to the contrary, he came down and let me in, but barred the gate behind me.

I then gave him the money, and he offered to take the card to his maſter, but I told him that I was ordered to deliver

liver it into Mr. Dundas's own hand; and I promiſed him another crown if he would conduct me to his preſence. He heſitated, but at length conſented. He then led me up two flights of ſtairs, and, leaving me in a lobby, went into his maſter. After ſome time, he opened a door and beckoned me to ſtep forward. I bowed, as I entered a ſpacious and well furniſhed apartment. I ſaw Mr. Dundas, at the upper end, in a rich undreſs, and careleſly reclined on a Turkiſh ſopha; while his nymphs, to the number of about thirty, ſat before him round a table, regaling on a cold collation, and all dreſſed in a uniform of ſnow white muſlin.

I advanced and preſented him with my card, when, putting on his ſpectacles, he ſtarted and ſeemed much ſhocked as he read. At length, looking at me, What did our friend Sternhold die of? ſaid he,—Of old age, ſir,—You lie,

lie, he quickly replied; he was ſcarce ſo old as myſelf: but, I ſuppoſe, you were ſent to intimate that my turn comes next.—Well then, my girls, let us eat and drink to day, for to-morrow we die.—You fellow, be gone, return to your employers; tell them what you have ſeen; and ſay that we do not chuſe to leave a feaſt, in order to go to a funeral.—I bowed in ſilence, and withdrew.

On my word, Mrs. Sternhold, continued my father, archly ſmiling, Mr. Dundas, in his way, is a man of excellent taſte; I queſtion if the haram of the Aga, or of the Reis Effendi, is ſupplied with ſo elegant a collection of females.

Ah ſir, cried Mrs. Sternhold, did I not tell you that he was hardened in ſin, quite callous and irreclaimable? Well, well, ſaid my father, perhaps we may have another caſt for that matter. In all events I am determined to aſſault his caſtle,

caſtle, and to deliver his princeſſes from their preſent ſtate of enchantment.

In the mean time, we ought to prepare a place for their reception: for it would be a ſhocking affair indeed, to turn them looſe again into the world, as well to the confirmation of their own ruin, as to the ruin of all thoſe whom their charms or their arts might have power to ſeduce.

As our hoſt juſt then came in, my father aſked him if he knew of e'er a roomy houſe in the town that was to be let. Yes ſir, ſaid he; there is a large one of three ſtories, in which the deceaſed Mrs. Vanleur lately kept a boarding ſchool; the furniture is not yet removed; and I am told that it might be had on very moderate terms. Pray ſtep then, ſaid my father, and take it for me directly.

And now, Mr. Sternhold, continued my father, if I can prevail for the ſeparation of Mr. Dundas from his fair aſſociates, will you aſſiſt me toward their maintenance, and the rent of their new aſſylum? Sir, he readily anſwered, as the whole benefit will be mine, I will chearfully be at the whole expence. Well then, replied my father, we will divide the coſt between us. I think about five hundred pounds yearly will reach the extent of our project. Pray do you know of any pious and poor clergyman in the country, to whom we might do a ſervice, by placing him, at a certain ſalary, as inſtructor and ſuperintendant over our new ſort of ſeraglio? Mr. Ruxon, ſir, the curate, lives within a few doors; his aſpect and whole appearance inſtantly and undeniably pronounce his character. Out of a pariſh, under-rated at four hundred pounds annual income, he gets a ſorry ſtipend of forty pounds for doing the duties of a

grudging

grudging and diſtant rector. But the pleaſure he takes in his office makes his abundant reward; and he deems himſelf over affluent in the good things of a world, in which his divine maſter had not where to lay his head. It is wonderful to conceive how, out of this yearly pittance, he maintains a wife and nine children, without any appearance of want being ſeen in their apparel, or heard of in their complaints: indeed I think them the moſt contented and happieſt of all families beneath the moon; for a ſuſtaining God is with them, and his peace and love is in their hearts, and around their board and their beds. Neither does this good man confine himſelf to the providing for his own houſhold; out of his little his hand is ever open to impart of that little, and he doubles the gift by enriching it with his bleſſing. In truth, had it not been for the bounty which, I derived from his

poverty,

poverty, my wife, and I, and our little Charlotte, muſt have periſhed.

I am quite enraptured, cried my father, with the character that you give me of this primitive apoſtle. If our project ſhould ſucceed, we will ſettle upon him a ſalary of fourſcore pounds a year, in recompenſe of his endeavours to recall our ſtray ſheep to the ſhepherd of ſouls. If you pleaſe I will inſtantly attend you to his houſe, and there apprize him of the matters that we have in hand.

On the day after the interment of the deceaſed, very early in the morning my father and Mr. Ruxon, attended by conſtables and ſervants, went to reconnoitre the ſcene of their intended aſſault; for my father was determined, at all events, as a magiſtrate and one of the quorum, to depopulate the ſeraglio of the gallant Mr. Dundas.

As they approached the caſtle, they perceived that the drawbridge was let down and the gate already open; and that the women came forth one after another, each with a bundle under her arm. Thereupon, he ordered the conſtables and ſervants to keep aloof, and waited till he ſaw that the objects of his attention had aſſembled, and ſtood conſulting together in the lawn. He then went up and addreſſed them, with a voice and aſpect of affectionate compaſſion.

My unhappy ſiſters, ſaid he, I pity you from my ſoul, and am alſo deſirous of ſerving you to the beſt of my power. Do not think me then unfriendly or impertinent in my enquiry, when I requeſt to know of you whereto you are bound, and what farther courſe of life you propoſe to purſue?

Alas

Alas ſir, anſwered an elegant and modeſt looking young creature, you have ſeen from whence we came; we cannot conceal our character; and yet, in truth, appearances make much more againſt us than facts: nay, there are ſome among us, who, heretofore, betrayed by perfidy, or undone by ſurprize, earneſtly wiſhed to return to virtue and reputation; but, like miſerable Eſau, found no place for acceptance, though we ſought it with many tears.

They muſt be ſavages indeed, replied my father, who could find in their heart to reject ſo amiable a penitent. But, as I already demanded, pray, what is your purpoſe, whither do ye intend to go?

Ah ſir! ſhe cried, you cannot but be ſenſible, that there is no whither for us, no home, no harbour, no road or way upon earth; they are all ſhut and barred

againſt us: neither will the world afford us a morſel of bread, except on the condition of that very proſtitution which firſt cauſed our ruin. Hence, we are the moſt miſerable and moſt deſolate of living creatures; when thoughtleſs, mad with merriment; when reflecting, in deſpair. O, think not, worthy ſir, that our courſe of life is a matter of choice; indeed we deteſt, we loath it, we prefer death to it; and we would this minute, as far as we could, put an end to our own exiſtence, if any hope was left for us in a future eternity.

Pray, what is your name, my girl? Guinnifred, ſir, ſo pleaſe you.—Aſk no farther, I beſeech you; for I am unhappily allied to perſons who, by no means, deſerve to be partakers in my ſhame—But, if that gentleman is a clergyman, as the reverence of his appearance at a diſtance ſeems to ſay, ſend him inſtantly

inſtantly to Mr. Dundas; the wretch I doubt is breathing his laſt.

Mr. Ruxon thereupon haſtened into the houſe, while my father continued to addreſs the aſſembly.

You ſay, my ſiſters, that you are altogether deſtitute and forlorn, rejected and caſt out by a cruel and unfeeling world, and that you know not where to procure a morſel of deſerved bread; and, indeed, this is your true and very pitiable caſe. Ye alſo ſay, that ye look back, with abhorrence, on the baſe and infamous way of life to which you have been reduced. What then would ye do for an honeſt and generous maſter, who ſhould clothe and ſuſtain you, without requiring any lewd or degrading conditions at your hands?

O, my lord, exclaimed Guinnifred, we would do all things for ſuch a maſter,

that he could in honeſty exact; we would work our fingers to the bone for him, we would bleſs and adore him almoſt equal with our God!

Very well, cried my father, I here hire and engage you as the future and faithful bondwomen of your maſter and my maſter; and ſo ſaying, he put a guinea into the hand of each, being nine and twenty in number. But remember, continued my father, that I do not hire you in my own name. I hire you in the name of Chriſt, of my God and your God; and you muſt covenant, on your part, to live a chaſte, ſober, and penitent life; and he covenants, on his part, to ſupply you in this preſent life with all neceſſary things, and to enrich you hereafter with uncountable treaſures, where the eternity of his ſervice will be perfect freedom.—If ye accept the conditions, then follow me!—So ſaying, he led the way, and they crowd-

ed

ed after him like a flock of poultry after the hand of their feeder.

As ſoon as he arrived at the place of their deſtination, he found Mrs. Sullivan ſtanding at the door, a poor but reſpectable widow, whom Mr. Ruxon had recommended for the pious and worthy abbeſs of this extraordinary convent. Good mother, ſaid he, be pleaſed to take theſe my beloved ſiſters to your care; and pray ſhew them their apartments, and order breakfaſt to be in readineſs, while I ſtep and bring my daughter to ſhew her the new charge that I have brought upon her.

I went at my father's requeſt, but with reluctance, I confeſs: the company of a ſet of creatures, whoſe crime my ſoul abhorred, was grating to my apprehenſion. I went I ſay, however; and, on our entering the parlour, we found them ſeated in order about two joined

tables. They all baſhfully and reſpectfully roſe on our appearance; but my father prayed them to be reſeated, and ordered Mrs. Sullivan and me to ſerve the tea and coffee at either end of the tables. I obeyed, but caſt a timorous and diſguſted look about. But, ſcarce had my eyes returned with intelligence, when I was ſuddenly and wonderfully reconciled to our gueſts. Their diffident, their abaſed, and mortified demeanour, inſtantly turned my indignation to compaſſion and tenderneſs. Ah, ſaid I to myſelf, may there not be a merit in the conſciouſneſs of humbled guilt, that exalts it even above the ſelf-ſufficiency of conſcious virtue?

To ſay the truth, for ſo many, I never ſaw ſo handſome a ſet of women got together; and ſome of them were of a delicate turn of manners, and gave evidence of a good and polite education,

tion, more eſpecially my father's favourite Guinnifred.

I imagine, ſaid my father, caſting his eye around, that ſome of our ſiſterhood are miſſing from the company. Yes ſir, anſwered Guinnifred, three of them have eloped; your honour's bounty, with what they purloined, as I ſuppoſe, from their late maſter, will be ſufficient to put them, as they think, upon their own footing.

I wiſh them well, rejoined my father, wherever they go; and truſt they have carried with them the pollutions of the whole flock. And now, my girls, I think it time to apprize you of what ye have to truſt to. This houſe, with the apartments and furniture, are all for your accommodation; your table ſhall be daily and plentifully ſupplied; and whatever you earn or acquire, by your perſonal labour or ingenuity, ſhall be

your own, to lay out or lay up at your pleaſure. I neither require nor deſire any ſervice at your hands, ſave the ſervice of yourſelves by ſerving your God: but then it ought to be a free ſervice, a ſervice from the heart; it ſhall not be conſtrained; and, when any of you ſhall happen to be weary of well doing, ye are at liberty to depart from your God and your friends, whither ſoever your evil tendency may chance to direct you. I promiſe you, at the ſame time, that ſhe, who perſeveres to the end of a year's probation, ſhall have a certificate of her behaviour from me and the worthy clergyman you ſaw with me a while ago, which certificate will entitle you to any place or honeſt employment, of which ye are capable, throughout theſe kingdoms. Though I have mentioned a year's probation, I do not limit your abode here to any particular term; continue and welcome to the end of your lives; and, if any of you ſhall receive

propoſals

propoſals of marriage from an honeſt and induſtrious man, ſuch as I or the reverend Mr. Ruxon ſhall approve, I will then add from twenty to fifty, and from fifty to a hundred pounds, for your marriage portion, according to your reſpective merits, and the length of your reſidence in this place. For, henceforth, I take you, not only as my ſiſters, but as my own children, new-begotten and exceedingly precious to my ſoul.

I looked about and ſaw that, in the general, they were much affected. Miſs Guinnifred whiſpered to ſome, and they again to thoſe who ſat next them; and, ſuddenly, all roſe and gathered crowding and kneeling about my father, thanking, bleſſing, and praying for him, while ſome ſhed tears of grateful and unfeigned ſenſibility.

When they were once more ſeated, Mrs. Sullivan, ſaid my father, I here recommend Miſs Guinnifred to you, to be your aſſiſtant in ſuperintending and managing your family. O, thank you, thank you ſir, cried ſeveral of the women; we will gladly obey her, as our ſuperior and our miſtreſs, for indeed ſhe is worthy.

Shortly after, Mr. Ruxon arrived and joined us. The ſanctity of his aſpect, and the reſpectableneſs of his grey locks, drew reverence and attention ſtill as night.—Well ſir, cried my father, with an anxious and enquiring look, in what condition have you left the wretched Dundas?—Very weak in body, ſir, exceeding ill indeed; but, with reſpect to his ſoul, full of hopeful horrors and gnawing remorſe. On entering his chamber and approaching his bed, I obſerved that large drops of ſweat had gathered on his brows, and that his limbs

limbs all ſhook with an involuntary motion that was nearly convulſive. As I took a chair beſide him, he opened his eyes upon me, with a look that expreſſed, beyond the power of language, the aſtoniſhment and depth of deſpondence that was opened within him.

Mr. Dundas, ſaid I, I am ſorry to ſee your body ſo much indiſpoſed; but I am infinitely more grieved to underſtand, that your ſoul is ſick even unto death eternal. Awake then from your long dream of the pleaſures of ſenſuality, and of the permanence of a fleeting life, which, as one catching at a ſhadow, you endeavour to graſp in vain. Alas, you are at the point of launching out upon a voyage, the moſt fearful and moſt important that men or angels can conceive; and yet you enquire nothing concerning the courſe you are to ſteer, or the country to which you are bound,

neither

neither concerning the reception you are likely to meet there, or the commodities that may be of value in ſuch ſtrange and diſtant regions. In a few days, perhaps in a very few hours, the world and the fleſh, with all your truſts and dependencies, and every carnal organ of your former delights, will be ſapped and ſtricken from under you, as the baſe of a tumbling tower, when undermined by the floods or ſuddenly blaſted by powder.

Ah, he cried, and endeavoured to ſtrengthen himſelf, and caſt a ghaſtly glance upon me; had you come the meſſenger of any hope, however diſtant in the ages of futurity, you would have been welcome indeed. But I am all turned into one eye; and that eye is nothing but a ſhrinking and fearful looking out for judgment!—O, the viſion of laſt night, the viſion of laſt night! It is ſtill preſent to me; and I

ſtill

ſtill call for the mountains to cover me, and the rocks to fall upon me.

While I lay laſt night, ruminating on the death of my comrade in iniquity, I fell into a ſound and exceeding deep ſleep; when my ears, as I thought, were ſuddenly aſſailed by the alarming clangor of trumpets, from all points of the compaſs.

I looked up and beheld the clouds, black and pregnant with thunders, gathering quick from all quarters, and impending over my head. While I crouched and ſhrunk inward, the clouds inſtantly divided and left a chaſm in the center, through which the ſun broke as in his meridian brightneſs. Again, a voice, that ſhook the univerſe, was heard throughout. The ſun vaniſhed from his place, and was no where to be found; and utter darkneſs fell upon all the ſcenes in nature.

While

While my ſoul, alſo, darkened within me, a ſtrange light dawned from afar, and, increaſing as it came onward, promiſed ſhortly to exceed the light of the great luminary ſo lately extinguiſhed. At once a ſhout of diſtant triumph rent my ears and the elements; and this was again ſucceeded by a ſhout of loud lamentation, which ended in a groan ſo deep that my heart died within me.

I looked upward for relief, but as ſuddenly ſhrunk back, when I beheld the terrible NAZARENE deſcending on a rainbow; a rainbow all compoſed of cherubim, that, as ſo many living gems, were pellucid through their different colours, and mingled their ever varying luſtre with each other. While, over the head of the Son of David, heavens roſe above heavens; and, within thoſe heavens again, new heavens ſeemed to open, with all their inhabitants, ſurpaſſing

ſing the other heavens, as in glory tranſcending glory!

I would have fled, I would have periſhed; but no place was found for covering, or for annihilation. I was compelled to look abroad: I ſaw the garment that had been divided, and for which lots had been caſt, again joined and flowing down in bloody waves beneath the rainbow; while thouſands upon thouſands caught and clung to the hem thereof, as the only ſtay that they had throughout the univerſe. And, far below them again, millions appeared to catch and ſuſpend by ſcarcely perceptible threads, that were let down on all ſides from the ſaving power of the perſon of the manifold REDEEMER.

I, alſo, wiſhed for a thread, however ſlender, to be thrown forth; but felt that my hand was withered, and had not

ſtrength

ſtrength to reach at it. I ſtood alone, as I thought, the only convict upon earth! At length, adventuring a ſhort glance at the face of the judge, I perceived that his eye was as ſingularly and as conſtantly fixed upon me, as though no other creature, in the whole world of creatures, had attracted his regard.

I then ſhuddered, and endeavoured to gather myſelf into nothing from the All-ſeeing eye. But, in the inſtant, I perceived that the earth quaked and was convulſed beneath me; and ſuddenly dropping into a bottomleſs gulph, I alſo fell, as I deemed, from ſpace, from duration, and all poſſible ſociety, and, giving a frightful roar, I awoke to deſpair and inexpreſſible horror.

But madam, (continued miſs GRENVILLE), I have quite tired your ladyſhip: and truely, for the preſent, I have little more to ſay; for, within the two following

ing

ing days, we took a cordial farewel of Mr. Sternhold's family, doctor Ruxon, and the fair Guinnifred; and leaving old Dundas happily ſettled with his ſon-in-law, we ſet out, well pleaſed, on our return to London. O, you are wearied, you are ſadly wearied, I know, with my prattle; but the ſcenes that I have recited were deeply intereſting to me at the time that they paſſed, and ſo came, of themſelves, on my memory and from my tongue. A good evening to you madam,—to-morrow, or the day following, or at any other time, I will return, and proceed, if it is your pleaſure, in my inſipid narrative.

Not ſo, my JULIET, cried lady CRANFIELD; your ſtory is ſweetly affecting as well as inſtructive; and my ſoul accompanied you through the whole with equal attention and delight. Your deſcription alſo of the great and final day is ſtriking and ſublime; and is, I am confident,

confident, almoſt ſtrictly repreſentative of the ſcene that will be exhibited, when weakneſs ſhall be raiſed in power, and death ſwallowed up of victory. But, my dear, you muſt not think of breaking from me ſo ſoon as you propoſe. My lord will not be at home for ſome days to come. In the mean time, in my JULIET I ſhall have the world to myſelf. I will immediately diſpatch a note to your parents, to inform them that you are my priſoner for this day or two at leaſt.

After a race or two in the gardens, and a ſhort evening's collation, the COUNTESS conducted her fair friend to her bed-chamber; and, having barred out all intruſion, miſs GRENVILLE reſumed.

Are you not of my opinion, madam, that our ſpirits have a ſort of internal organs, whereby they perceive, and feel, and taſte, and reliſh, and enjoy, in a manner

manner quite ſuperior to and incomparably more delightful than the ſenſitive gratifications of fleſh and blood? For my own part, I avow that, in the commerce of kindred hearts, in the ſweets of kindly offices, and in the bringing about uncommon and happy events, where Providence has evidently operated and interfered for the relief or diſplay of virtue, and for the unfolding and exerciſe of the divinely humane affections; in ſuch matters, I ſay, I have felt more real pleaſure, more bliſs in a ſingle day, than all the organs of my corporeity could ſupply me with in a century.

Let me think a little, JULIET,——It muſt certainly be, as you ſay. For thoſe internal organs, that you have mentioned, are infinitely more ſuſceptible of pain as well as pleaſure than the organs of our frail and diſſoluble machinery can poſſibly be: it is, therefore, that none have ever put themſelves to death, to get ſhut of the

the ſtone or gout, or any other bodily anguiſh; but the anguiſh of "a wounded ſpirit who can bear?"

Well, madam, ſaid miſs GRENVILLE, I will then give you the hiſtory of a little event, wherein I had the happineſs to be a party, and from which I derived inexpreſſible pleaſure.

Long after our return from our adventures at Epſom, I took an airing to Highgate, attended by two ſervants well armed and on horſeback. I there called in on ſome families of penſioners that we had in the town, and laſt of all on a poor but very worthy widow, who bore an excellent character, and who decently fed, clothed, and reared her four fatherleſs children, without any other means than my father's yearly allowance, and the fruits of her own induſtry.

This

This widow had been my favourite, above all our penſioners; and I had given her, from time to time, gowns and linen, and pieces of money, to help toward the ſuſtenance of her orphan charges.

I found her ſitting up in her bed, with a ſickly and diſconſolate look. Mrs. Turney ſaid I, taking a chair beſide her, I am ſorry, heartily ſorry to ſee you indiſpoſed. O, my heavenly miſtreſs, ſhe cried, and preſſed my hand to her lips, I feel that you are ſorry for me. Yes yes, I know, were your will to bear rule, there would not be a ſore limb or ſad heart in the world. But, alas, I have a diſtemper upon me that no doctor can cure! Here, here it lies! ſhe cried, pointing and putting her hand repeatedly to her breaſt. Ah, my God defend you, my precious lady, from ever being affected with the like malady; but, your innocence and virtue will always preſerve you

you from it. Do you know, miſs, of any cure for a troubled conſcience?—Yes, I anſwered; the troubling of the conſcience is the moſt neceſſary and beſt preparative toward a cure; it is, as when an angel deſcended and troubled the waters of Bethesda, and left a ſpirit and power of healing therein.

O, my darling, ſhe exclaimed, and her eye brightened upon me, thou art the angel of healing, whoſoever the angel of troubling may be! I will then open to my young phyſician the very bottom of my wound; and, if you can pour any comfort or balm therein, I will not ceaſe to bleſs and bleſs you, for ever and for ever.

About a fortnight ago, I was ſitting in yonder chair, ſomething affected with hyſterics, and very low ſpirited; when my unnatural uſage of my eldeſt babe ſuddenly ruſhed upon my mind, in a manner

manner more forcible than it had ever done before. Ah, my child, ſaid I in my ſoul, to have ſtrangled, to have murdered you, had been leſs brutal! Where are you, what is become of you, are you living or dead? I would give the world to know what is become of you, my child! In that very inſtant, ſome dæmon or diſturbing ſpirit whiſpered into my ear, as plain as a ſpeaking trumpet, "Your "daughter is ſtill alive; but ſhe is a "ſtrumpet, and now in the common "ſtews."—This intelligence ſtruck to my heart, and I directly fainted away.

On recovering my ſenſes, my remorſe and compunction grew daily ſtronger and ſtronger, and became in my boſom as the worm that dieth not, till the anguiſh of my mind reduced me to the ſtate in which you find me. But, madam, to diſcloſe to you the whole of my guilt, as alſo to prevent my moſt reſpected lady from having a worſe opinion of me than

I may happen to deſerve, I ought to have began my ſtory ſomething earlier.

I was born near Chatham, the daughter of an humble curate, who had no worldly ſubſtance, ſave a few old books, and a ſtipend of thirty pounds a year. But he laboured his little garden and little field with his own hands, and thereby, with the milk of a couple of cows, kept himſelf, and my dear mother, and three children, from want.

I was his eldeſt offspring, and, though he loved us all tenderly, yet he prided in me alone; for I was the child of his care and aſſiduity, and he daily inſtructed me in ſuch articles of learning as ſuited my ſex, ſo that, at the age of fifteen, I was accounted the beſt ſcholar within three pariſhes.

On a pleaſant ſummer evening, as I walked along the fields, with a little brother

brother in my hand; I was overtaken and accoſted by an exceeding pretty youth, who was juſt come off a Weſt India voyage. Miſs, ſaid he, and bluſhed and heſitated, while he looked earneſtly in my face; I, I believe this is your huffiff which I found on the way you came. I alſo bluſhed and thanked him, with a curtſy as low, and a look as gracious as poſſible. We then walked on together for ſome time, without a word on either part, but now and then ſtealing a ſide glance at each other.

At length he began, in faultering accents, and told me he was a ſtranger in the country, and looked upon that as the greateſt of all misfortunes, as it had hindered him of the advantage of being acquainted with me. After this opening, we converſed with greater eaſe; and I thought I felt a ſecret thread that inviſibly drew our two hearts to each other.

He then informed me that he was youngeſt ſon of a decent family near Cheſter, and had run away from ſchool, at thirteen years old, before he had finiſhed his courſe in Latin: that, getting in company with a parcel of tars, they had wheedled him on ſhipboard; and, as he wiſhed to ſee ſtrange countries, and ſtrange ſights, he was eaſily prevailed upon to take a ſea-faring life: that God, however, had proſpered his ways: that this was his ſecond trip to and from the Weſt-India iſlands; and that he was come home vaſtly rich. So ſaying, he took a large purſe from his ſide pocket, and pulling out a handful of gold, to the amount as I ſuppoſe of about forty guineas, he made a diſplay of them before my eyes. I looked aſtoniſhed no doubt, for I had never ſeen ſo much money in one heap before, and I beheld it as an inexhauſtible fund of treaſure.

He then offered me a ſhare, or the whole if I would honour him with the acceptance; but I told him, that I never had, nor ever would receive any favours from young men. Will you give me leave then, miſs, to wait on you home? If you pleaſe, I will go and demand you of your parents in marriage. No, I cried, quite frightened, I ſhould die of ſhame, were it hinted to father or mother, that I ever ſhould want or wiſh for a huſband. What is then to be done, ſaid he dolefully, would you kill me outright? if I do not ſee you again, I ſhall have no uſe for eyes. And, ſaid I in myſelf, if I ſee you no more, I ſhall never deſire to be ſeen of any.

I now judged it time to be on my return homeward; but, ſpying a rent in one of the checkered ſtockings of my lover, which he had got in paſſing a hedge, I told him I would mend it if he would ſit down a little; and that this

was the leaſt tribute I could pay him for the recovery of my huſſiff. He complied, with new pleaſure ſpreading over his ſweet countenance; and, while I kneeled to repair the breach, I caſt up a ſhort look and perceived my huſſiff in his hand, and he kiſſing it with as much eagerneſs as though it had been myſelf. I ſeemed, however, to take no notice; but theſe little endearing incidents faſtened ſo deep in my memory and on the chords of my heart, as not likely to be removed for a very long time to come.

As ſoon as I had finiſhed my work, O, he cried, I will ſooner part with this leg, than ever part with this precious ſtocking again. I pretended to laugh; but my heart was very ſad, for the time of our parting was now at hand: ſo I roſe and told him that I muſt poſitively bid him adieu. He again preſſed to accompany me. I ſaid

it

it could not be; but, pointing to our houſe, I intimated where I lived, and farther promiſed that if to-morrow's evening ſhould prove fair, he might happen to find me in the ſame field.

So I curtſied, and bid him good night; and, bowing in ſilent and deep dejection, he inſtantly turned from me; when, caſting a backward look at him, I perceived that he held his handkerchief to his eyes. I could then no longer refrain, but ſeizing the hand of my brother, I hurried him on as faſt as his little heels could keep pace; and, drawing near home, I ſtopped a while to dry my eyes, and went in, the moſt altered creature, ſure, that ever was for ſo ſhort a time.

I neither ſlept nor waked, as I may ſay, for the whole night. It was all a kind of doſeing delirium, of pleaſing re-

collection, but painful looking out for that which was to come.

The three following days were wet and ſtormy. The fourth evening was fine; but viſitors came whom I was compelled to entertain, while my heart was ſecretly wrung, in the feeling of what my lover muſt then have endured, and I wiſhed our neighbourly intruders at a thouſand miles diſtance.

The next morning, at breakfaſt, I thought that my father looked upon me with an eye of diſtance and diſguſt; but, as he did not ſay that I had given him any offence, I ſuffered the matter to paſs over in ſilence. I was deeply affected, however, by the coldneſs of his regard, and walked into the next field to give vent to my concern.

I had not gone far, my tears dropping as I went along, when I heard the voice

voice of mourning from the far ſide of the hedge. The ſound of lamentation was of kin to my ſoul, and ſtepping ſoftly, and peeping through, I perceived my lover wringing his hands and weeping, as if his heart would burſt in ſunder. All alarmed, and half diſtracted, I flew round to him, and, ſeeing me, he ſprung up and endeavoured to hide his emotion.

What is the matter, ſaid I? what ails my young friend? why are you ſo ſorely afflicted? O miſs, he cried, I am loſt, loſt and undone for ever paſt hope of remedy! I was with your father this morning, and begged his conſent to marry you. I kneeled to him, prayed to him, offered him all my treaſure, with all that ever I ſhould acquire hereafter; but alas, he rejected all my offers, and all my petitions. I will not deceive you, my deareſt miſs: he told me that you were the comfort and ſtay

of his old age; that the ſight of you in a morning, was pleaſanter to his eyes than the riſing of the ſun; and that he would not give you to the beſt ſoldier or ſailor that ever moved upon land or water, who might carry you from him he knew not where, or leave you upon the pariſh to die of a broken heart. So, miſs, I have told you the honeſt truth, and you may do as you pleaſe; all I know is, that you or death will have me, and that very ſpeedily.

What is your name, ſir, ſaid I? Felix Turney, madam. Then, my dear Felix, you muſt not, you ſhall not die, though I were to give my own life for the ſaving of yours. Be ſure to meet me on this ſpot by dawn of day tomorrow; in the mean time, I will reſolve, as well as I may, on what is to be done.

I thought he would have died of joy on the ſpot. He catched and clung to my

my feet; but I broke away from him, for my heart worked ſorely and was very heavy.

All that day and that night, my thoughts and inclinations were divided, and at war one againſt the other. I remonſtrated, to my ſoul, on the duty that I owed to thoſe who brought me into being; on their care and tenderneſs toward me; and, above all, on the affliction which my elopement would cauſe them, and which might bring their aged heads with ſorrow to the grave.

On the other hand, imagination repreſented my Felix all pale and breathleſs before me; I ſeemed to myſelf to ſicken and die away at the ſight; and, in him, I felt that all future joy and poſſible conſolation were ſhut out from me for ever. But, again, I cried to myſelf, ſhall I thruſt a dagger into the old and loving heart of my father?

No; die rather, die thou thyſelf, ungrateful and unworthy girl! And thus I continued, in a mortal conflict with myſelf, till near morning.

As the time then approached in which I muſt, of neceſſity, either accompany my lover, or deſire him to depart without me, I found the latter to be impoſſible; for he towed my heart after him as irreſiſtibly, as a boat, when looſed from its ſtay, is carried down the ſtream; and ſo, caſting my cares and all conſequences behind me, I determined to go with him, ſince I could not live without him.

I did not dare to reflect farther. We met, hurried into the town, were married, and that day ſet out for London. On the road, my young huſband was all fondneſs, all tranſport; and, indeed, from the day of our marriage to the day of our firſt parting, had I been made

of

of a ſingle diamond, he could not have prized me higher or have been choicer of me: but alas, my own remembrance was a heavy draw-back upon the happineſs that I ſhould otherwiſe have enjoyed!

You certainly judge with me, madam, that I deſerved all that I ſuffered in conſequence of my miſbehaviour. I ought to have oppoſed the firſt impulſe of my paſſion; I was much too precipitate in my inclinations for a man, of whom I knew little or nothing; and, what I owed to the kindeſt and tendereſt of parents, ſhould have ſtifled thoſe inclinations, however painful the ſtruggle, as ſoon as I found that they were repugnant to my duty. But the firſt ſenſations of love were ſo new and pleaſant to me, that I gave it arguments and arms againſt myſelf, till it was quite out of my power to be willing to oppoſe it. This I ſay, however, as a confeſſion,

and

and by no means as an extenuation of my fault.

My Felix, with his good will, would ſpeedily have laviſhed the whole of what he called his vaſt riches upon me. For ſailors, in the general, know little of the uſe or value of money; and are ſurely the worſt arithmeticians in the world, for calculating how long or how ſhort it may laſt. But, happily, he had entruſted his purſe to my keeping, and my lamented father had taught me to be quite expert at accounts.

So I took cheap lodgings for us up three pair of ſtairs, and catered as frugally as my huſband could be brought to allow of, always chuſing the worſt bit and pooreſt ſup for myſelf, in part of penance for my offences againſt my parents: for the paſſages of my childhood would often occur to my mind, the fields, ſcenes, and companions of

my

my playful and happy innocence, with the inſtructions, careſſes, and fond looks of my tender father; and I would get me apart and weep, till I waſhed my apron with tears. I took care, however, to keep all my griefs to myſelf; and, on the appearance of my Felix, always put on the moſt chearful countenance I could poſſibly aſſume.

Thus we lived for ſeven months, when, with all my economy, the better half of my huſband's great purſe was exhauſted; and, to add to the pain and bitterneſs of forecaſt, I began to ſuſpect that I was with child. This, however, I did not dare to hint to him, neither to remind him of the low ſtate of our ſtock, leſt it ſhould tempt him to forſake me in my perilous condition, and go once more to ſea, in order to repleniſh. I therefore bore up under my many depreſſions of ſpirit, till three months more

were

were nearly elapſed, and ſcarce ten guineas of our whole fortune remained.

As his love accuſtomed him to ſpend moſt of his time in my company, I grew particularly uneaſy at his ſtaying out a whole day. Not a morſel of dinner or ſupper paſſed my lips; and I ſat, till midnight, in the cold, weeping, and ruminating, by turns, over a half ſmothered fire; ſcarce daring to look up to my God for relief; much leſs did I preſume to demand of his providence, how I deſerved to be made ſo exceedingly miſerable?

At length the fire went out, and I threw myſelf on the bed, with the coverlet over me, endeavouring to ſtupify a part of my diſtreſs, by dozing a little. But, all my attempts were fruitleſs; my Felix roſe to my imagination in a frightful ſucceſſion of horrible repreſentations; now in the gripe of bailiffs; now in the hands

hands of robbers and murderers; and now ſeized upon by a preſs-gang, and hurried away to ſtormy ſeas and diſtant regions, from whence he was never, never more to return.

Day at laſt appeared, and day, after many a doleful day, appeared, without any ſight or tidings, and now even without any expectations of my Felix. O, cried I to myſelf, well did my dear father prophecy, that ſoldiers and ſailors leave their beloved, and thoſe of whom they are beloved, to periſh.

My tranſgreſſion, thereupon, returned with double weight upon my mind. O, my dear young lady! if, when one does a fault, one was to have done with it, it were ſomething, it were a matter that might be born; but, to be always renewing it in recollection and remorſe, to be conſtantly haunted with it, as a ſpectre at midnight, opening the curtains and glaring in on the eye of the conſcience;

ſcience; it is terrible indeed! Ah, were others to be afflicted or affected with compunctions like mine, they would ſhudder at the thought of any future tranſgreſſion, more than at the coming of peſtilence or ſudden death! But, they will not ſhudder, my lady, for I did not prove an example of ſufficient warning to them; and my firſt fault was ſpeedily ſucceeded by a ſecond, ſtill more unnatural and more grating to my ſoul.

Seeing no likelihood of my huſband's return, I diſcharged our lodgings, and took a little room in the garret, where, my time being haſtened by grief and reflection, after long and anguiſhing travail I was delivered of a weakly daughter. But the coſts of child-birth, in fees to midwife, doctor, and ſo forth, reduced my guineas to ſhillings; and, by the time I had recovered ſo as to be able to get abroad, not a penny was left.

O ma-

O madam, how pointed and bitter is the ſenſe of want in ſuch a ſtate! The wealthy have no knowledge of it; the hard-hearted no feeling for it; and even the charitable relieve it, more from the bounty of their own temper, than a ſenſe of the diſtreſs. My ſoul ſunk in utter abjection, even a depth below the grave in which my body was to lie. I looked on death as my only aſylum, and the tempter ſtrongly prompted me to adminiſter the remedy with my own hand; but Grace whiſpered me to bear under my inflictions with patience, as a penance and expiation that my offences enjoined; and nature alſo urged me to prolong life for the preſervation of my infant, though I ſaw nothing but miſery in ſtore or proſpect for her.

I therefore earneſtly prayed for ſtrength from above, to reſiſt the tempter; I removed all inſtruments of death from about me; and I carefully avoided all

ponds

ponds and deep ditches, leſt I ſhould be ſuddenly prompted to caſt myſelf in.

Mean time I took my babe in my arms, and going along the ſtreets, with a voice ſcarce audible, but a very petitioning face I believe, I begged wherewithal to keep us from famiſhing. But people were ſo engroſſed by their own concerns, or I ſo unſkilled in my new occupation, that I could not procure ſufficient nouriſhment to ſupply my child with breaſt-milk: ſo, ſeeing her daily weaken and decline apace, I diſpoſed of her into hands that I truſted, at the time, would provide better for her; and it was not till long after, that my conſcience flew in my face on that ſcore.

Being furniſhed with ſome ſhillings, and none but myſelf to take care of, I conceived a ſtrong propenſity for reviſiting the place of my nativity, and ſeeing if my parents were yet alive; not with any

any intention of revealing myſelf to them, or craving any thing from them, but merely to indulge the longing that fell upon my heart.

I accordingly ſet out, and, after ſeveral days of weariſome travel, arrived, on a Sunday morning, within ſight of the ſmall church where my father uſed to officiate.

I ſighed and dropt a tear; and, moving ſlowly forward, I perceived that the pariſhioners were gathering, and began to enter the place of worſhip. I ſtill advanced, my eyes eagerly expecting when the beloved objects they were in ſearch of ſhould appear. At length and laſt of all came my reverend father and mother, with their two ſons in their train. God bleſs you, my precious parents, I inwardly cried! God bleſs you, my little brothers; and make you a comfort and recompence to our common father

father and mother, for all the evils and anguiſh their wretched daughter has brought upon them!

As ſoon as they had got in, and that the church-door was cloſed, and all in ſilence about me, I kneeled down on the path that led to the houſe of prayer; and, giving way to the paſſion with which my boſom was burſting, I wet the ground with my tears, and preſſed my lips to the earth on which my father had trodden.

When my emotions were, in a meaſure, abated, I roſe and turned toward the houſe that was the ſeat of my joyous days. I moved here and there, thief-like, bringing every place and corner and circumſtance to memory. At length I adventured ſidelong toward the door, and ſaw an elderly woman come forth; but ſhe had been a new comer, ſhe was not of my old acquaintance. Miſtreſs,

ſaid

ſaid I earneſtly, will you give a hungry creature an alms? She looked at me, and her eye aſſented; and going in without a word, ſhe brought me forth a veſſel of milk and a large ſlice of bread. I drank heartily of the milk, for grief had made me thirſty; but my heart was too full to think of eating, ſo I put the bread in my pocket, purpoſing to reliſh future meals, with the morſels gleaned from the field of my native patrimony.

The good woman then eyed me pitifully. I believe you are tired, poor young thing, ſaid ſhe, I believe you are tired; will you come in and reſt yourſelf? I accepted her invitation, and following her, I ſat down in the chimney corner. But, ſeeing my father's old hat and wig on the dreſſer, I could not refrain, but began to weep afreſh. Bleſs me, cried the kind creature, it is a ſad thing to ſee one ſo young and ſo pretty as you are, take ſo much to heart. Pray, what is it

that

that grieves you? are you in great want? I would do any thing to comfort you that I could.

So ſaying, ſhe ſtept to her own little apartment, and bringing forth a crown-piece, that was wrapt in a rag, ſhe took it out and preſented it to me; I thanked her and bleſſed her, but poſitively refuſed to accept it.

Juſt then, an old ſpaniel called Fetch, who had been my friend and acquaintance almoſt from my cradle, came with ſolemn ſteps from the parlour, and ſpying a ſtranger began to grumble; but approaching nearer to me he wagged his tail, and his whole body appeared in a pleaſed agitation. He then came up and licked my hands and my feet, and kept a wonderful coil about me, and whined and moaned as though he lamented my condition. Bleſs me, cried the good woman, I believe in my heart

the

the creature knows you. All dogs, ſaid I, are fond of me; they never bite nor bark at me, but fawn upon me. That is a ſign, ſaid ſhe, that you are very good natured.

I was then ſtrongly tempted to diſcover myſelf to this kind ſoul; and to tell her, in confidence, that I would go and wait a piece off, till ſhe ſhould try, whether my parents were inclined to ſend after me or not. Perhaps, ſaid I within myſelf, my father may prove like the gracious father in the goſpel, who gladly ſaw his returning prodigal, when yet afar off, and ran and met, and kiſſed, and embraced, and wept upon him. But no, ſaid I again; thy father, alas, has no fatted calf, no plentiful board for ſons, and leſs for ſervants. Begone then, begone, nor ſtay, unmeriting as thou art, to ſhare and leſſen the bread of his better deſerving children; neither daily to offer to the eyes of thy parents a face that is juſtly

the object of their indignation. Should they even receive and treat thee graciouſly, what would it avail, ſave to ſting thine own heart and conſcience with the deeper reproaches?

So I aroſe, and told my kind friend that I muſt take my leave of her; and I took her by the hand and ſqueezed it, and kiſſed and bleſſed her, and dropt a tear; and I perceived that her own eyes were alſo full at parting.

I then turned away, ſlow and ſad; and the farther and farther I went, I grew ſadder and ſadder, ſtill turning and ſtopping, every minute, to take a long leave of the ſeat of my parentage, till the laſt glimpſe of the beloved place diſappeared from my ſight.

On my arrival at London, I again took poſſeſſion of my room in the garret; and, the day following, I began to ruminate how

how I might earn a little honeſt bread by needle-work or otherwiſe. Obſerving a chandler's ſhop on the ground floor over the way, I ſtept and found it to be the property of an orderly looking widow. Good miſtreſs, ſaid I, I am a poor unhappy girl, who would willingly eat the bread of virtue and diligence; pray have you any employment for me, in which I might ſerve you without being a burthen upon you? my good will, I promiſe you, ſhall go a great way in making amends for any want of capacity. She then aſked me if I could handle a needle? Indifferently, I anſwered; whereupon ſhe put the making of a ſhift, cut out from new linen, with needles and thread into my hand. I inſtantly ſat down to my work, with gliſtening hope and expectation; while my employer ſtood over me with attentive obſervation, and now and then looked pleaſed and ſmilingly into my face. On finding that I was quite neat and expert at the buſineſs, ſhe twitch-

ed the work away from me; Come, ſaid ſhe, never heed it now; you muſt ſtay and dine with me, and, in the afternoon, we will talk farther of matters.

After dinner, ſhe ſat and chatted with me awhile, without entering upon the ſubject which to me was moſt important. A few cuſtomers then dropped in, one after another, and, aſking my pardon, ſhe roſe and ſerved them in turns. Soon after, the whole ſhop and floor began to be crowded; and I found myſelf diſtreſſed on ſeeing the confuſion and difficulty ſhe was under, in making the ſeveral entries for thoſe who had paid, and thoſe who had gone upon credit. Miſtreſs, ſaid I, if you will permit, I will take upon myſelf ſome part of your trouble. I then ſeized on a ſheet of paper, and, applying to herſelf from time to time, entered the monies received on one ſide, and the debts to the ſhop on the other; and, before night,

cloſed

cloſed her buſineſs with great chearfulneſs and diſpatch.

She then came and took me about the neck, and kiſſing my forehead, cried, My dear creature, you are as an angel ſent to me from heaven, if we can but agree. I will give you your board clear, and eight pounds yearly; and will farther encreaſe your wages, if our cuſtomers ſhall happen to multiply. I know your character, it is very good, I have ſeen you often over the way. If I die while you are with me, you ſhall be the better for me. I flatter myſelf that you will prove a ſweet companion, as well as a uſeful and faithful friend. In ſuch a caſe I ſhall be happy, while you think it your convenience to continue with me; but, whenever you may find it your intereſt to depart, I ſhall grieve to be ſure, but I will comfort myſelf with the thoughts that you are the better for my loſs.

I lived two years and a half with this very kind miſtreſs, whoſe name was Dampier. She had raiſed my wages, from time to time, till it amounted to twelve pounds, and I had ſaved upward of twenty, which I purpoſed ſhortly to take to my father's and divide between my two brothers toward putting them out apprentices; when, one day, as I was reaching to a ſhelf for ſomething, I ſuddenly found myſelf in the arms of a man.

I ſcreamed, and made a violent effort to get from him; and giving him a puſh at the ſame time, he fell backward over a chair, and throwing his hand behind him to ſave himſelf, he diſlocated his right ſhoulder.

He roſe ſlow and painfully, and looking reſentfully at me, Ah Letty, ſaid he, is this the reception you give your Felix, on his firſt viſit to you after ſo long

long an abſence? Indeed you have hurt me ſadly; I fear my bone is broken.— Felix, Felix! I exclaimed, and looked eagerly at him; I believe you muſt be my very Felix indeed!

I was then ſeized with ſuch a trembling and faintneſs, that I was obliged to ſit down; but, the agitation I was under, between my joy to ſee him, and my grief for having hurt him, kept my ſpirits afloat and ſaved me from ſwooning.

Mrs. Dampier was greatly diſtreſſed between us; and, ringing for the maid, ſent her haſtily for a ſurgeon. In the mean time ſhe had placed my huſband in a chair, for he ſhewed by his countenance that he was in great anguiſh.

When the ſurgeon came, he found himſelf under the neceſſity of ripping my huſband's fine coat, in order to come

at his ſhoulder. Then, with the help of a porter, he reduced the bone to its ſocket, and, having applied the bandages, he fitted a ſling for the ſupport of his arm.

As a fever was apprehended, he was enjoined not to remove for the preſent; ſo we accommodated him with a room that ſtood backward from that wherein my miſtreſs and I lay; and, in leſs than a fortnight, his youth and a healthful habit of body nearly reſtored him to the perfect uſe of his arm.

He then went to our former lodgings, and took the whole third floor at thirteen pounds yearly; for I wiſhed to be near my good old miſtreſs, that I might occaſionally aſſiſt her, and it grieved me to think of being ſeparated from her.

When I came to enquire into the adventures of my Felix, he told me that he had

had been preſſed, and forcibly carried on board the Caroline man of war, without being allowed leiſure or materials for writing; and that his learning, and particularly his fine hand and knowledge of accounts, had recommended him to the purſer, who appointed him his clerk, and allowed him moreover ſeveral lucrative perquiſites; ſo that near two hundred guineas were now due to him on the books, beſide about fifty of ready caſh which he had in his pocket. But, my Letty, continued he, I am not now as I was in the boyiſh days of my folly, when I dreamed there was no getting to the bottom of a ſhort purſe. As I wiſh never more to be parted from you, my darling, we muſt manage with the better frugality, in order to keep together; for, were the ocean to be drawn from, without receiving any ſupply, it would at laſt be ſcooped to the bottom. So I will get me into ſome way that will afford us a daily penny, with-

out breaking in upon our principal. But, you are a great rogue, Letty, for pretending not to know me when I took you in my arms, and making believe that you would have treated ſtrangers with the ſame ſeverity that you uſed your Felix.

I laughed; and, in a day or two, he went and received his pay, and bought a pleaſure-boat of ſix oars with a handſome awning, which turned out to good profit by plying up and down the Thames, particularly in the ſummer ſeaſon. And this, with what I made, by my daily attendance on Mrs. Dampier, defrayed the whole of our expences, and added ſomething to our principal at the year's end.

However, our family now began to multiply apace; and, in ſomething more than four years after the return of my huſband, I was delivered of the four

ſons

ſons you have ſeen ſporting about you. So that, what with chriſtenings and nurſings, my inability to attend the ſhop of my good old miſtreſs as uſual, and the natural prodigality of the diſpoſition of my Felix, which would break out, at times, in ſpite of his reſolutions of prudence and reſerve, our principal fund was at length conſiderably ſunk.

My huſband now began to grow thoughtful, and his chearfulneſs conſtrained. One evening he came home more dejected than ordinary. He placed himſelf over againſt me, looked mournfully at me, and ſat ſilent for ſome time. What is the matter, Felix, ſaid I, has any thing happened amiſs? Nothing new, my love; but we muſt part again, my Letty, we muſt part for a time; and that is daggers and death to my heart. If a man begets children, it is his duty, as a man and a chriſtian, to provide for them; but God, who opens

and ſhuts at pleaſure, has not deigned, at this ſeaſon, to ſucceed my endeavours: ſo I found myſelf neceſſitated to go farther a-field; but was loth to grieve you, till the hour of my departure was come. I have made ſale of my boat and other matters; and find that, on the upſhot, we have only a hundred and fifty pounds in the world: ſo I have taken on with the Swan Eaſt-indiaman, in a very advantageous birth. The fifty pounds I take along with myſelf for a venture; the hundred I leave with you, as a ſorry ſubſiſtence for yourſelf and our darling babes, till I can do better for you all. If we ever meet again, my Letty, you will find me rich on earth, or happy in heaven; for, as a ſinner, I truſt in my title to Redemption and Grace.

I anſwered not; I was drowned in tears, and nearly ſuffocated with ſobs. I went and threw myſelf on the bed,

and

and he came and laid himſelf beſide me; and, folding each other in a ſtrait embrace, we wept together till the night was far advanced. At length, I dropt aſleep under the preſſure of my griefs; and he tenderly, as I found, covered me up cloſe and warm: but, when I awoke in the morning, no Felix was to be found.

I will not afflict you, my precious miſtreſs, with the recital of my lamentations; they were all ſilent however, no wailing was heard. When my duty and attention to the intereſt of my fatherleſs children had recalled me to the world, I joined my ſtock in partnerſhip with my old friend and miſtreſs, and I and my infants crowded into her back apartments.

Toward the latter end of the year, my partner ſickened and died. I thought myſelf then forſaken of the laſt friend

I had

I had upon earth; and I remained long inconſolable, though ſhe left me, in caſh and joint effects, to the value of three hundred and thirty pounds.

I now wiſhed ardently for the preſence of my Felix; and, had I then been bleſſed with his advice and protection, we muſt have proſpered greatly, as I had a flow of cuſtom. But, lone as I was, I neither knew how to realize my money, nor in what ſtocks to lodge it, nor on what ſecurities to put it out to uſe; for I avoided the acquaintance of men, and I looked on women as ignorant or dangerous confidents.

One night, I was ſtarted out of my ſleep by a grating noiſe at my ſhop-window. I liſtened with a panting heart, and thought I heard the great bar wrenching away from its hinges. I then made no queſtion but that I, and my children, and ſervant maid, ſhould all be

be murdered; and I would gladly have given all I was worth for the ranſom of our lives. I rouſed my woman in a hurry, and we double locked the door, and with joint force heaved and ſet a weighty deſk againſt it; and again we barrocaded the deſk with tables, chairs, and every impediment we could lay our hands on.

Soon after, I heard my till and the locks of my cheſts tearing open; and the noiſe they made was ſo great and daring, that the watch muſt have been in confederacy with the robbers. Several times they knocked at our door, and heaved ſtrongly againſt it; while my maid and I endeavoured to keep the deſk firm, not venturing ſo much as to breathe with freedom.

When all was ſilent for a ſeaſon, and that the rogues, as I ſuppoſe, had cleared the whole ſhop of every thing

that

that was of value, I went again to bed; and calling the maid to me, we lay cloſe and quaking together, till the light came in at the window.

We then got up and dreſſed, and removed the bars from our door, and entering the ſhop, ſurveyed the wanton havock the thieves had made, beſide carrying off all my effects that could not have been leſs than ſome tons in weight. Providentially, however, they had ſpared my books of account, that lay concealed in a corner behind the counter: ſo I tried to lift up my ſpirit, and, with Job, I bleſſed the name who giveth and taketh away; but my heart was ſtill heavy.

I then went and wakened my children, and, while I was dreſſing them, I let fall tears of joy and tears of grief upon them; for I joyed to ſee them ſafe from ſo great a peril, but mourned

for

for the loſs my poor things had ſuſtained.

The world was now to begin again, but with what means was the queſtion. So I ſighed, and wiſhed myſelf and my little ones ſafe lodged, where ruſt doth not corrupt, nor thieves break through and ſteal.

Though I did not take to my bed, my health was daily declining, and a languor and weight invaded and hung upon every limb. I was thereupon adviſed to remove to Hampſtead, or Highgate, for the benefit of air. I ſet my furniture to ſale; diſcharged my floor; and found that I was full twenty pounds in caſh, beſide about as much more in reſponſible book debts: whereupon I removed to Highgate, and rented the little hamlet, where you and your generous father firſt found me, madam.

But,

But, Mrs. Turney, ſaid I, you tell me nothing farther concerning your daughter, whom you mentioned in the foregoing part of your hiſtory. Ah miſs, ſhe replied, I was loth to come to that article, as it is by far the moſt ſhameful part of my ſtory. In a few days after my return from my father's, I went and enquired about her, at the place where I left her, without taking any notice of the relation I bore to her; and there I was informed that ſhe was thriving amain, that a nurſe had been provided for her, and that ſhe was treated with all poſſible humanity and tenderneſs; and ſo, not having the means to take equal care of her, alſo fearing to be ſuſpected, I enquired after her no more till the return of my huſband. I then opened to him the whole truth, and we went together to the houſe, in order to reclaim her. But alas, my dear miſtreſs, we found no one, therein, who could tell us any thing of her, or even

concerning

concerning the family that had lately removed from it.

But, pray, Mrs. Turney, be open to me alſo; where, and in what manner, was it that you diſpoſed of your child? —I—I ſold her—my lady.—Sold her! good God, ſold your child do you ſay? —Pray, my miſtreſs, be not ſo highly offended with me; indeed I have ſorely, very ſorely repented of my fault.—It is not that, good Mrs. Turney, that makes me ſo inquiſitive. Do now, tell me at once, where, and to whom did you ſell her?—In Hanover-ſquare, madam, to the prettieſt little miſs I ever ſet my eyes on, who happened to be looking out of the ground-floor window, and ſaid ſhe wanted the child to put into her baby-houſe.—And, how much did you get for her, my good friend? Fourteen ſhillings and ten pence, madam, in ſilver and half-pence.—Then, Mrs. Turney, methinks, I ſhall be able to give you ſome little intelligence

intelligence about your daughter; I myſelf was the purchaſer.—You the purchaſer! ſhe cried, looking wildly at and about me.—Indeed I was; but you know I bought her very fairly and honeſtly, and ſo you muſt not think of taking her from me. O, exclaimed the grateful creature, and caſt herſelf on her knees before me, Are we not all your purchaſe, your property to be diſpoſed of at your pleaſure? Are you not, young as you are, the angel-mother of all my little ones? and ſo ſaying, ſhe ſeized my hand and wept ſobbingly upon it.—But, is ſhe yet alive, madam? may I not ſee her, may I not have one look at my child?—You ſhall, Mrs. Turney, you ſhall ſee her to-morrow.

Upon my word, cried lady CRANFIELD, and wiped her eyes, this is what I did not expect. I little dreamed of the wonders your baby-houſe was to produce. But your ſtory, my JULIET, adds

to

to truth all the graces and incidents of romance, when romance happens to coincide with nature and ſentiment. Well, you brought the mother and daughter together, to be ſure.

I did, madam, as you ſhall hear. On my return, Emmy was the firſt who came running to receive me, as her heart always ſent her eyes on the look out after me.—You are welcome home, madam; I hope you have had a pleaſant airing.—Yes, Emmy, ſo pleaſant, that I intend to take you the ſame airing to-morrow; I am juſt come from viſiting your mother, Emmy.—My mother, dear madam! and ſhe coloured all ſcarlet; when again her colour went, and ſhe tremblingly aſked, but have I not a father too, my miſtreſs?—As I knew not her drift, I ſmiled, and replied, that a father, for aught I knew, might alſo be requiſite in the caſe.—Ah madam, I mean that I ſhould be well pleaſed to be

the

the offspring of beggars, provided they were honeſt beggars; but it hurts me ſadly to think, that I may have been the child of guilt and licentiouſneſs.—You are, my Emmy, the offspring of an honeſt and pious ſtock; and your parents are the lawful parents of many more children. But, what made you ſuſpect, my child, that you were miſbegotten? —Why, madam, Mrs. Goſſipper, ſir John Elliot's cook, came, ſome time ſince, on a viſit to our cook Mrs. Grizeld. While they ſat chatting in the kitchen, I paſſed through, unheeding, to get ſomething from the larder; and my ears being better than I deſire at times, I heard Mrs. Goſſipper ſay, whiſperingly, Methinks your beggar's baſtard goes very fine, Mrs. Grizeld. Huſh huſh, ſaid good Grizeld! our young lady would be much offended if ſhe heard what you ſay, I aſſure you; and ſo would my good maſter and miſtreſs too; for they are all as fond of her, and as kind to her, as though

though ſhe were of the family blood. So, I paſſed back again, with my face turned ſomething aſide from them, for fear they ſhould perceive that my eyes were full.

In the evening, I told Mrs. Grizeld, that I had ſomething to ſay to her, that concerned me very nearly; and requeſted her to ſtep with me to my bedchamber. There I threw my arms about her neck, and kiſſed and thanked her, and told her I had heard the kind things ſhe had ſaid of me; and earneſtly begged to hear all that ſhe knew or had learned about me.

All I have learned, ſaid ſhe, is, that miſs JULIET bought you of a poor woman at ſir John's door, when ſhe herſelf was little more than a baby. But what ſignifies who were your parents, miſs Emmy? Are we not all the daughters of Adam and Eve? and ſure no one will deny

deny but that they were lawfully married, ſince ſhe was bone of his bone.

Notwithſtanding all Mrs. Grizeld's kind and learned conſolations, I lay awake and in tears the moſt of the night; and that, I ſuppoſe, ſprung of pride; for, as the Apoſtle ſays, God has ſurely a right to appoint the veſſels of his handy-work to honour or diſhonour, even juſt as he pleaſes. But, pray madam, can you tell me, is my father living?—He is not, Emmy; it is many years ſince he took ſhip for the Eaſt Indies, and has never ſince been heard of. Your mother will tell you all about him and herſelf; a very ſweet and affecting ſtory, I promiſe you, Emmy. Soon after your father's departure, your mother came to good ſubſtance; but, being robbed in one night of ſeveral hundreds of pounds, ſhe retired, with your four little brothers, to Highgate, where ſhe became one of my father's worthy penſioners.

The

The next morning, by break of day, Emmy went, without my privity, on a very ſweet errand, and drained her little purſe in purchaſing preſents for her mother and younger brothers. For a ſweet girl ſhe is; and is, in perſon and manners, the very picture of lowlineſs arrayed in gentility.

When we alighted at Highgate, I led Emmy in to her mother, ſaying, Mrs. Turney, this is your daughter; Emmy, this is your good and reſpectable mother. I then inſtantly withdrew to a back garden, that I might not interrupt their careſſes, or put any reſtraint on their mutual emotions; though I would have given, at the ſame time, above twenty pieces to have been an inviſible ſpectator of the pathetic ſcene.

After I had walked for ſome time, Emmy came, wiping her eyes, and requeſted me to ſtep in. I followed her,

but found ſhe had been ſomething too haſty; for I perceived that her mother was ſtill full, and unable to ſpeak, though ſhe tried at it ſeveral times. Emmy then went out, but quickly returned, followed by her little brothers, and one of the footmen, bearing a large bundle.—What have you got there, Emily?—I beg your pardon, madam, for encumbering your carriage with my lumber; it contains ſome clothes for my mother and my brothers here.—Come, lay it down; produce, and let us ſee your fancy.

She then opened, and took out the making of a gown of green mantua ſilk for her mother, as alſo a parcel of fine green cloth, with ſuitable trimmings for all her brothers. But why, Emmy ſaid I, did you chuſe all of one colour?—That we might all, madam, be in the livery of the dear miſtreſs to whom we belong. But ſiſter, cried the eldeſt boy, are

are all theſe fine things for us? Yes, my dear, and happily may ye wear them!

Then all the little fellows ſprung and capered about her, and clung to her in turns, and reached up their arms at her. While ſhe paſſionately kiſſed and careſſed them, one after the other, I perceived that her boſom was agitated by that ſort of internal convulſions, which we feel when we are ſtrongly affected, and endeavour, at the ſame time, to ſuppreſs the appearance of emotion.

I have often heard it affirmed, that a number of little loves divides and diſſipates the ſuſceptibility of any great love; as though love were to be numbered like coin; or limited and portioned out, like lands, with bounds and mearings: but here I had a demonſtration of the abſurdity of ſuch an aſſertion. The greater the number of the objects of Emily's love, the ſtronger the flame

kindled, as from ſo many coals brought together. For love is ſurely as fire; the more it expands the more fuel it finds, and the more fervent and intenſe is the growing heat thereof.

You are in the right, my JULIET, exclaimed lady CRANFIELD; love certainly encreaſes in proportion to the circle it makes, and the objects at which it reaches; and it farther warms and acquires vigour by exerciſe and action. Nay, it forcibly occurs this inſtant to my ſoul, that love conſtituted thoſe talents, which the Lord, on his departure, entruſted to his ſervants, deſiring them to occupy till his return: and one encreaſed his talent five fold; and another ten fold; but another buried his talent in the earth and dirt of this world, without encreaſing it or employing it in any one act of the charities that are thereupon quoted; ſuch as miniſtering food to the hungry, and drink to the thirſty, and viſiting the ſick and the priſoner, and

clothing

clothing the naked, and miniſtering relief to the diſtreſſed, and comfort to the afflicted.

I have remarked, my darling, that the large ſphere of your benevolence, and the extenſive occupation in going about to do good, has naturally engaged your hiſtory in what they call low life. But, is it the leſs intereſting and affecting, or leſs entertaining or inſtructing, on that account? No, ſurely. People of the lower rank are free from thoſe reſtraints, under which, form and ceremony, with the biaſs and prejudice of education and faſhion, lay the paſſions, propenſities, and affections of the great. Their's is the field of nature: if unimbelliſhed, it is alſo unſpoiled by art; and it is the field, in which my ſoul delights to wander.

Neither are the virtues or magnanimities of the lower claſs of people con-

fined by their ſtation, or ſtraitened by their circumſtances. A peaſant may be informed with the ſpirit of a prince; and he who gives a little, when he has nothing more to give, may ſhew a more extenſive and elevated bounty, than he who out of thouſands diſpenſes his pounds.

They are not matters of magnitude, the ox, the elephant, or the whale, that engage the attention or art of the Almighty. He rather delights to be elaborate on the minuteneſſes and minims of nature; to open his immenſity, as it were, within a ſpeck; to laviſh his ſkill and ornaments on inſects and butterflies; and to inform ants and bees with better ſagacity and ſcience, than the moſt laboured ſyſtems of human policy can exhibit. For the littleneſſes of our God are great beyond conception; and, while the univerſe cannot contain him, his wiſdom and might, his goodneſs and glory, and the fulneſs of his infinity, are entire

and diſplayed through every point of infinite ſpace.

But, I interrupt you, my JULIET; and that is my own loſs. Proceed, my daughter, I beſeech you; proceed to ally me nearer to the villager and the beggar, and to open all the ſluices of humanity within my ſoul.

Miſs JULIET then reſumed her tale—Ah, madam, cried Mrs. Turney, you have now reſtored me to the name by which I was baptized, and have turned the tears of my mourning into the tears of my joy.

But Mrs. Turney, ſaid I, did you hear nothing from or concerning your good huſband ſince he left you?—Only once, madam. Some time after the robbery, when I had retreated, in my indigence, to the cottage wherein you found me, an officious neighbour of

mine, in the zeal of her friendſhip, came hurrying and full laden with the very heavieſt tidings with which ſhe could have been freighted. Had ſhe been leſs communicative, ſhe might ſtill have left me the happineſs of hope. She ſhewed me a paragraph, in one of the London papers, where the melancholy news was ſaid juſt to have arrived, that the Swan India-man had been caſt away on the coaſt of Coromandel, and that the captain with all the crew had periſhed.

Struck to the heart, I ſat awhile in mute aſtoniſhment, and then ſhamed my neighbour away with the ſudden burſt of my ſorrows.

I now ſunk, for the ſecond time, below my own nothing; below the worms, who dive under the graves and the deepeſt depoſits of mortality.

I then

I then remembered where Naomi ſaid, "Call me not Naomi, but call me Mara; "for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly "with me." At my baptiſm, ſaid I, I was named Joy, and my huſband was named Happy; but all our happineſs is miſery, and our joy deſolation.

In the depth of my diſtreſs, and the wringings of my anguiſh, you came, the heavenly meſſenger of conſolation and grace; and lifted me from the pit with the hand of your ſaving, and wiped the tears from my eyes, and filled all my little ones with food and gladneſs.

What would you think, my friend, ſaid I, of my accompanying you and your family on a viſit to your good old parents? The thought, this very minute, came into my head; and I would give forty pounds to be preſent at the interview. O madam, ſhe cried, the truant ſtep that I took muſt be ſtill in his me-

mory; it was a fault that I fear is paſt pardon.—This then ſhall be the ambaſſador of reconciliation and peace: here are the forty pounds I mentioned; you ſhall preſent him with this, towards ſetting up his two ſons in ſome honeſt employment; and ſo ſaying, I put a bill for the money into her hand. How is it, ſhe exclaimed, in the overflowings of her gratitude, that you ſhould be a mint of wealth, as well as of bounty; and pour yourſelf out, as you do, in bleſſings upon all about you, wherever you go?——So great, my deareſt madam, little matters appear, when they happen to be rare; and ſo unwilling are the rich, to diſcharge their debts to the poor! for wealth is as ſurely a debtor to want, as though bonds and parchments had paſſed between them in all the forms of law.

That day, I dined on a chop with Mrs. Turney; and, on my return in the evening, told my parents, over tea, the

hiſtory

hiſtory I have juſt recited to your lady-ſhip.

Juliet, ſaid my father, the pleaſure I have received from the ſtory of our favourite penſioner, brings me farther in her debt; we muſt do ſomething more for ſo deſerving a family. Indeed I rejoice, at heart, that you have found a mother for our Emily, whoſe virtues are worthy of ſo worthy a child. For I am more indebted to Emily than you yet know, as ye ſhall hear.

Some time ſince, at the time that I ſprained my foot by too precipitate a ſtep from my carriage to the threſhold, none of our people happened to be in waiting, ſave Emmy, whoſe eye has ever been attentive to my motions.

She gave me her arm, with a look of ſuch diſtreſs, as made me think myſelf worſe than I was; ſhe then helped me

into the parlour, till ſhe ſeated me in an eaſy chair. She haſted for a cuſhion; and, having placed my foot upon it, ſhe ran for ſpirits and the nervous ointment, and taking off my ſtocking, ſhe began her operations, in a gentle kind of hurry. The ankle was already black, and much ſwelled and inflamed, which greatly alarmed the kind girl, and put her all in a tremor. However, ſhe did her beſt to hide her concern, and continued to foment my foot, while I felt her tears dropping faſt and warm upon it: ſhall I confeſs that I felt them at my heart alſo. At length, ſhe roſe, with her head aſide, and ran for ſome flannels, and ſwathing and wrapping the part up warm, ſhe kept her face downward, all the while, leſt I ſhould ſee ſhe had been weeping; but, hearing your coach drive to the door, ſhe withdrew with precipitation.

And

And now, my ladies, it happens opportunely, as I think, that a ſmall advowſon, of about ninety pounds a year, is fallen into my gift; and, with your approbation, it ſhall help to clear accounts with our little Emmy. I deſire to preſent it to her, that ſhe may, in her own name, make a preſent of it to her grandfather: tell me JULIET, what is he called?—Ephraim Upright, ſir: I never heard it till after dinner this day.—A good goſpel name for a clergyman, cried my father; I doubt not but the man will anſwer to the meaning. Ring the bell and call for Emily.

Poor Emmy came in, all bluſhing and apprehenſive that ſomething amiſs had happened, on her part; for ſhe had not yet got the better of the fluſter in which that day's adventure had put her.

Emmy, ſaid my father, come near me, my child. Though I am generally in health, I have, from time to time, employed many phyſicians, and you are the only one among them to whom I never gave a fee; and yet you gave me more eaſe and delight, than all the medical tribe grouped together in a bundle. What then ſhall we do for you, my Emmy?—Emmy was abaſhed and ſilent.—Your ſiſter JULIET, here, tells me, that you have a reverend old grandfather, a man of worth, but of poverty that hangs heavy on his merits. Will you go and make him a preſent, in your own name, of a ſcrip of parchment, that ſhall put him in poſſeſſion of ninety pounds a year? I know it will delight your young heart to do ſo; and it ſhall not deduct any thing from what we owe to yourſelf, in particular, my Emmy.

The

The girl looked aſtoniſhed as one quite oppreſſed; ſhe ſunk on her knees in ſilence, and, at length, broke into tears without uttering a ſyllable. What is the matter, ſaid my father; what does the little fool cry for? I did not mean to provoke your tears; they hurt me, my girl; pray go and compoſe yourſelf. —She roſe and retired.

I am greatly mortified, my JULIET, continued my father, that I cannot accompany you on your expedition to Chatham; but I may gather in the harveſt of that adventure, perhaps, more delightfully from your own dear lips. Exerciſe is good for your health, and the offices of beneficence are congenial and chearing to the ſpirit of my darling; and we can have no joy, ſave ſo far as we partake in the joys of our JULIET.

In about three weeks after, we ſet out. We lay at an inn within five miles of the place, and, at ſix in the morning, proceeded to finiſh our journey.

When we arrived within leſs than a mile of the abode of Mr. Upright, I left the chariot and ſervants, with Mrs. Turney, her children and a coach and four, and Emily and I adventured on foot to her grandfather's.

We entered without ceremony, and found the good old couple at breakfaſt over two porringers of new milk and a brown loaf. God bleſs you, and much good may it do you, my good ſir and madam, ſaid I; and ſo took a ſeat without being bidden. They ſtared at us awhile, and ſeemed ſomething confuſed; for I believe they had not been accuſtomed to viſits from gay ſtrangers.

Will you permit us, ſir, ſaid I, to ſhare in your repaſt, and to call for two porringers more; your loaf I ſee is ſufficient. Deborah, thereupon, was inſtantly called; milk, hot from the cow, was placed on the table; and ſomething, I knew not how, gave the milk and coarſe bread a ſweeter and higher reliſh than all the delicates I had ever taſted in my life.

Mr. Upright, ſaid I, I believe you look upon us as very bold, and perhaps unſeaſonable intruders. Not at all, madam, ſaid he politely; I have often read of angels who have viſited the ſaints; I only wonder how they come to pay a viſit to ſinners. O, my dear ſir, I cried, and caught his hand and kiſſed it; I am a ſinner, who come to be ſainted by your example and inſtruction. But, pray, where are your two ſons? I wiſhed to ſee them about you.—They are put out apprentices, madam: but your

your knowledge of my affairs, and kind concern about them, ſtill perſuade me that you muſt have come from an upper region; in truth, your perſon and whole appearance confirm the opinion.

O ſir, I replied, however unworthy and vile in myſelf, I truſt indeed that I am the angel or meſſenger of happy tidings to you. Had you not once a daughter, ſir?—I had, I had; but ſhe is dead, or worſe than dead, theſe many, many years!—I think I am able to tell you ſomething about her. Pray call your ſervant maid.—Mrs. Deborah, how long have you lived in this family?—Above eleven years, madam.—Do you remember any thing of a young beggar girl, who once came to your door? I do, I do, madam; I can never forget her; ſhe has often haunted my dreams: truly, I took her, at the time, to be ſomething extraordinary; and my maſter has

ſince

ſince told me that ſhe was his own daughter.

Ah, cried the good man, I was unhappily engaged to dine with a neighbour that day. On my return, I ſent ſeveral ways after her; but ſhe was gone, we knew not whither, too far for recalling! When Deborah told us how our old dog had fawned upon her, and licked her hands and her feet, I knew it could be no other than the darling of my heart, the child of my vitals; but ſhe was a hard hearted and unnatural girl, not to give us one ſight of her, even ſuppoſing ſhe had been determined to depart.

O ſir, ſaid I, ſhe had travelled from London, all the way on foot, and for no other purpoſe but to indulge herſelf with one ſight of the habitation in which her beloved parents dwelt, and, if poſſible, to get a glimpſe of their

ſhadows

ſhadows as they paſſed unknowing before her.

I then told them of the tranſaction in the church-yard; and how their daughter had kiſſed the duſt whereon her parents had trodden, and waſhed it with the tears of her repentance and ſorrow for having offended them. Whereupon they both wept plentifully, but the old gentleman exceeded.

O my child, he cried, as though ſhe had been preſent, you were faulty indeed, but your penance has been too ſevere! alas, I was far from wiſhing it ſhould reduce you to beggary. Did you not know you were entitled to your portion of my loaf, and of my labours? Why then did you not come and ſhare them with us? why did you not bring back my ſtray lamb to my arms, and to my boſom? Tell me, madam, does ſhe live? may I look, once to behold her again,

again, before I go hence and be no more ſeen?

She lives, ſir—you ſhall ſee her, you ſhall ſee her this very day; and this young gentlewoman is her daughter, your own grandaughter, Mr. Upright, the eldeſt born of your child Letty, this whom you ſee before you.

Quick as a glimpſe of lightning, Emmy was at his feet, claſping and re-claſping the knees of her reverend ſire. God bleſs you, my lovely creature, whoever you be, he cried! but pray riſe and unfold; I am all an aſtoniſhment: theſe wonders, if true, are too mighty for me!—He then raiſed her to his arms, and embracing her, ſaid, Your ſwimming eyes tell me you are the child of my heart, whether you are the child of my bowels or not.

Emmy,

Emmy, thereupon, wiped her eye, and turning toward me ſaid, There, ſir, ſits my lady and miſtreſs; and young as ſhe looks, ſhe is the mother of my mother, and of all her little ones; aye, and the mother of my grandmother and grandfather too, as I ſhall ſhew. So ſaying, ſhe put her hand to her boſom and took out a piece of parchment. Here, ſir, ſhe earneſtly cried; her noble father preſents you, or, to ſay the truth, ordered me to make you a preſent, in my own name, of this writing, which entitles you to near a hundred pounds a year.

The old gentleman took it, and peruſed it, over and over, very readily, but with indiſcribable amazement. He was turned of ſixty-three, but had not yet made uſe of ſpectacles; and his temperance and exerciſe had preſerved to him an active and florid conſtitution,

inſomuch that he ſcarce looked to be turned of fifty.

After reviſing it with long and deliberate conſideration, he eyed me earneſtly, and ſaid, I will not ſuppoſe, madam, that your gracious father intended this his bounty as any matter of miſchief toward me; and yet the miſchief, I doubt, is very likely to enſue. This will ſet me above the neceſſity of daily labour with my own hands; and the want of exerciſe may conſequently ſhorten my days. But, what is infinitely worſe, this fortune, ſo utterly beyond my expectations, and even beyond my wiſhes, may in time inſenſibly ſteal me into indulgence, into vanity; and then, in ſoul, as well as in body, I ſhall be a fearful loſer both here and hereafter. Wherefore, my deareſt lady, if I had not children, and grandchildren too, as you tell me, to provide for, I would reject and return your donation, with a

" get

" get thee behind me Satan !" not to the giver, but to the gift. For my heart venerates and affects the giver, with a gratitude and fervour, perhaps more than ought to be, almoſt near to adoration !

While he was ſpeaking, the coach and four, with Mrs. Turney and her ſons, drove up to the door. She came in, and with a pale and trembling haſte, dropt precipitately on her knees before her father. His eyes inſtantly acknowledged the features once ſo dear. He let his arms fall about her. He wept and ſobbed upon her without reſtraint. At length, looking to me, he ſaid, You ſee, madam, that I am not aſhamed to have it known, that a part of the love of our heavenly father informs the heart of an earthly father toward his children alſo.

She then moved to her mother, and being equally careſſed, ſhe roſe and ſat down

down with her handkerchief at her eyes. Mr. Upright then looked about, and, ſeeing the four lovely boys who ſtood, in a range, behind the chair of their mother, Who are theſe then, my daughter; pray tell me who are theſe?—They are the children, my honoured ſir, whom God has been pleaſed to give me in the days of my diſobedience, but alſo in the days of my penitence. Bleſſed be his name therefore, exclaimed the patriarch, ſince, with Iſaiah, I may ſay, "Break "forth into ſongs, thou barren, thou who "waſt deſolate and dead unto me, for "more are thy children than the children "of fruitful mothers!" for I thought not to have ſeen thy face, my daughter; and yet I behold the bleſſed faces of thy progeny. Come to my arms, my babes, come to my arms my offspring!

But, pray ſir, where are my brothers? ſaid Mrs. Turney. They are at their trade, my dear; I bound them appren-

tice to a plough-carpenter, the occupation of that maſter, who came into the world to tear up and make fruitful the barren and fallow grounds.—Be pleaſed then, ſir, to preſent them with this as a token of my love; it may aſſiſt toward ſetting them up in their very honoured employment: ſo ſaying, ſhe put the bill for forty pounds into his hand.

My God! exclaimed the pious man, to what purpoſe is anxiety or ſolicitude upon earth? All our care and our coil can neither oppoſe or divert the ſmalleſt of thy diſpenſations; for, as all things are thine, ſo are all under thy guidance. When thou ſhutteſt, none can open; and when thou openeſt, there is no end or meaſure to thy bounty! Men are as buſtling mariners in the midſt of a ſhip; they run to and fro, and buſily handle the tackle; and they think that all depends on their own powers, and is actuated by their own operations: but the wind

wind blows as it liſteth; and the great inviſible pilot ſteers the veſſel of the world, with all that are therein, whitherſoever it pleaſeth him.

I then ordered the hampers to be brought out of the boot, one of old wine for the good old couple, and the other of cold meats, that we might put the family to as little coſt and trouble as poſſible.

The two nights that I ſtaid there, were ſome of the happieſt I ever ſpent in my life; for each rejoiced in the joy of each, and I in the joys of all. The old couple would have complimented me with their own apartment, but this I did not ſuffer; ſo Emmy and I lay in their ſecond bed, and Mrs. Turney and her ſons on beds borrowed from the neighbours.

On the firſt night, Mrs. Turney entertained her father and mother with the recital of her own adventures, from the time ſhe had firſt parted; but their emotions and paſſions, on the ſeveral quick tranſitions from joy to grief and grief to joy, were quite paſt deſcription; for they had the feelings of parents added to thoſe of their humanity.

On the day following, all Mr. Upright's pariſhioners, men, women, and children, came crowding about the houſe; ſome to congratulate him on the recent acceſſion of fortune, and others to lament the departure of their father in God, as they ſtiled him. Indeed I never ſaw ſo pathetic a mixture of gratulation and wailing, of ſmiles and tears.

The good man immediately found his heart enlarged toward every member of his flock, as toward the children of his bowels. He ordered a fatted ſheep to be

be killed in haſte; the yard alſo grew red with the blood of his poultry. He ſent for liquors to the town; and cauſing all to ſit, in order, on the green before the door, the feaſt was ſpread, and ſeaſoned with his cordial bleſſing.

O, Mr. Upright, cried the lips of a white head, you are the true repreſentative of your maſter, who fed the body at the time that he inſtructed the ſpirit. But, what ſhall we do for our future ſunday's feaſt, Mr. Upright? You are going to fatten others, while you leave us to famiſh.

The next morning we prepared to ſet out, and breakfaſt paſſed in a general ſilence; for all hearts and eyes were full at the neceſſity of parting. At length I took my leave of Mrs. Upright with a cordial kiſs; not forgetting the worthy Deborah, nor her offered bounty of the crown, which was now amply recom-

penſed by Mrs. Turney and myſelf. But, when I went to the reverend gentleman, and kiſſed and preſſed him in my arms, I could no longer refrain myſelf; while, with ſtreaming eyes and hands lifted in pious ardour over me, he would forcibly have pulled bleſſings from heaven upon my head.

On our journey, I know not by what accident, the off hind wheel looſened and dropped from our carriage. We found ourſelves going, when Emily, with an action quick as thought, pulled me to her and caſt herſelf on the other ſide; ſo that I fell on the poor dear thing, without receiving any hurt ſave what I felt for her.

As ſoon as we had got out, though ſhe uttered no complaint, I perceived by her countenance that ſhe was in pain. I was greatly alarmed and terrified, and wiſhed to exchange my feelings for her ailments,

ailments, whatever they might be. Ah, my dear Emmy, ſaid I, I fear that your arm is broke; I would to heaven, ſhe cried, that every bone in my body were broken, ſo it might be the means of preſerving my miſtreſs!

JULIET, JULIET, exclaimed lady CRANFIELD, why do you not introduce me to your heroes and heroines, your Emilies and Uprights, and Deborahs, and Turneys? Miſs GRENVILLE laughed and anſwered, You ſee, madam, that I am introducing them to you as faſt as ever I can; and I wiſh that thoſe, who are to follow, may be ſtill more deſerving of your regard.

Happily, my Emmy's arm was not broke, and that, to me, was matter of much joy and thankſgiving; but it was ſix weeks before the contuſion could be wholly removed.

But, JULIET, ſaid the counteſs, I know not how you manage it: whether it is, that you drop all the dead and heavy matter of your ſtory, imperceptibly, by the way; or whether you animate the whole with the ſentiments of your own ſpirit, I cannot ſay; but my heart, like a tuned though ſubordinate inſtrument, bears uniſon and accord to every word you utter. Proceed; I will not interrupt you any more.

On my return, madam, I found that my father, during my abſence, had been on a viſit to his friends at Epſom, and to inſpect the proceedings of his Magdalen-houſe, as he called it; and he met me big with the hiſtory of his favourite Guinnifred, which he ſaid he had learned by a wonderful incident. However, I ſhall beg my father's pardon for the preſent, and ſuſpend the narration reſpecting miſs Guinnifred, till we

we have put a period to the affairs of the friends we have in hand.

Some months after our return to London, I ſent Emmy, with our cook, to teach her how to market. On her return, ſhe came and bluſhingly told me, that ſhe was met and followed, and greatly teazed, by a man who offered her ſeveral preſents, all of which ſhe refuſed; that however ſhe could not get quit of him, till ſhe found ſhelter from him, by entering the houſe.

Pray, what ſort of a man, Emmy? A very handſome, and a very civil gentleman indeed, madam; all I wonder at is, how he could find in his head or heart to take ſuch a fancy to ſuch a chit as I am.

How ſhould you like him for a huſband, Emmy? A huſband, madam, of all things! a good joke indeed. No no,

no huſband for your Emmy on this ſide the grave. You alone are and ever ſhall be my lady and miſtreſs, my lord and maſter and huſband; and here I vow, as ſuch, to love, honour, and obey you, in ſickneſs and in health; and forſaking all other, to keep to you only, till death us do part.

Ah, you little hypocrite, ſaid I, laughing! here you pretend a mighty averſion to a huſband, forſooth; and yet have gotten the whole marriage ceremony by rote. Emmy coloured, and laughed, and ſaid, No matter for that, madam, you ſhall find me conſtant and faithful to my vows, however. No, my Emily, ſaid I, that muſt not be neither; when we happen to find the man I ſhall think worthy of you, a fortune ſhall not be wanting to recommend you I promiſe.

Yonder, madam, yonder he is, cried Emmy in a fluſter; the gentleman in the blue

blue and ſilver, on the other ſide of the ſtreet!—Well, child, leave me awhile and keep yourſelf out of view; I will undertake to ſave you from his importunity for the future.

I then threw up the window, and beckoned him to me; and, making a low and graceful bow, he directly attended my ſummons. As he entered, I endeavoured, at a glance, to enter into his character. I have ſeen few finer perſons, and his aſpect had ſomething in it extremely honeſt and engaging. His age ſeemed under thirty, and Emmy was turned of fourteen; ſo that I did not think the diſparity any great matter.

Sir, ſaid I, there is a young friend of mine who complains that you interrupt her, when abroad on my lawful occaſions. —I aſk you a thouſand pardons, madam; I meant no manner of offence. She will not ſay I was rude to her; I never was ſo

to any woman; my ſoul prompts me to defend, not to inſult your ſex. I preſume that the young thing is an attendant on your ladyſhip; and I confeſs I have taken an uncommon and ſingular liking to her.

And what may be your deſign in that liking, I pray you, ſir?—Nothing but what is very affectionate and very honourable, I aſſure you, madam. Were ſhe now of woman's eſtate, I would marry her preferably to any I know upon earth: but youth is a defect that time is not ſlow in mending. I will wait your leiſure, madam; and, with your approbation, at the day of our marriage, I will ſettle three thouſand pounds upon her, and four thouſand more on the iſſue I may have by her: in the mean time, if you can meet a worthier offer, I will make her a free gift of five hundred pounds, toward portioning her off to a better man.

You

You ſurprize me, ſir, you greatly ſurprize and affect me, I cried; and ſtill more ſo by the generoſity of your ſentiments, than of your offer. But, the truth is, that I am not ſole controuler in the preſent caſe. The girl has a mother who lives at Highgate; I was juſt going to pay her a viſit, and if you will favour me with your company, I will make the required propoſal before you. He aſſented; I rung for the chariot, and in we ſtepped.

When we got clear of the rumbling interruption of the ſtreets, Have you an addreſs about you, ſir, ſaid I, that may intimate by what name I am to introduce you to the mother? Right madam, ſaid he, and bluſhed; your rebuke is juſt indeed; I ought to have informed you, that my name is Turney.

Turney, Turney! I cried, and ſtarted, and looking piercingly at him; were you ever

ever upon a voyage, Mr. Turney? I was, madam, on ſeveral; it is not many months ſince I returned from the Eaſt Indies.

I then pulled the ſtring, and ordered the coachman to go ſoftly.——Pray pardon my curioſity, ſir, poſſibly you may not find it altogether impertinent; have you ever been married, Mr. Turney. I was, madam; and was alſo the father of ſeveral children—Sons or daughters, ſir? —Four ſons, madam.—Then Mr. Turney, I doubt you have been ſomewhat too precipitate in your propoſals for a ſecond marriage this day.—That cannot be, madam, my wife is unqueſtionably dead theſe many years paſt. On my arrival I made all poſſible ſearch after her, and enquiry about her; nay, I ſpent three entire months, in drawing out advertiſements, and in paſting them on every poſt and corner, with offers of large rewards for the diſcovery of my deareſt

girl

girl and her little ones.—Ah Mr. Turney, this is a very large and a very buſy city; where they neither have leiſure, nor, to ſay the truth, the humanity to attend to the concerns of other folk. But, tell me at once, is not your chriſtian name Felix?—You aſtoniſh me greatly, my deareſt lady; it is indeed.—Then, ſir, we are, this inſtant, on a viſit to your wife and your four ſons; and ſhe was your own and only daughter for whom you made propoſals of marriage this very day.

Great God! he exclaimed, and trembled, and turned pale—how can it be, madam; how could this be brought about?

I then related to him the manner in which I had purchaſed, and cheriſhed, and educated his little Emily; whereupon he caught my hand, and bowing down, and breaking into tears upon it, he wept till I thought his heart would have burſt.

Now,

Now, he cried, I diſcover the reaſon of the ſudden inclination I took to my own child. If it was not partly inſtinct, it muſt have ariſen wholly from the reſemblance ſhe bore to her mother, to the image ſo long and deeply impreſſed upon my heart; for, I well perceive that it was not an inclination of deſire; and you know, madam, that I offered to portion her off to another.

'But, ſir, ſaid I, you muſt not think of alarming my friend now, as you formerly did. You muſt wait aloof, and with all due patience, in the carriage, while I ſtep and prepare her ſpirits for your reception. Yonder are all your ſons; I ſee them before the door.

I drew the ſtring, the chariot ſtopt, and opening the door I jumped out and tripped along till the little lads eſpied me. They were dreſſed in their pretty uniform of green, and they all came flying

flying to me and clinging about me; while the father peeped, but did not dare to claim his ſhare in their careſſes.

As ſoon as I had got clear of my captivity by the children, one of them hurried in to appriſe the mother of my arrival, and ſhe came running to meet me; but I ſtopped her within the door. Come in, Mrs. Turney, I have ſomething to ſay to you in private. Come, ſit down beſide me awhile. And now tell me what you would think of a handſome, reputable, worthy, and wealthy huſband, Mrs. Turney? Her countenance inſtantly fell; and, turning to me a jealous and mournful look, Ah madam, ſhe cried, dearly, dearly have I paid for the huſband of my love; and I never will pay a farthing for the huſband of my averſion; for that would certainly be the caſe with any man breathing, after my Felix. But, my lady, it may be you begin to be tired of me—and ſhe lifted her ſwimming eyes

to

to my face;—indeed it is full time; but your bounty has ſupplied my father with ſufficient and more than ſufficient for him and all his progeny, and ſo we ſhall ſtill remain beholden and dependent upon you.

I caſt my arm about her neck, and repeatedly kiſſed her. No, my dear Mrs. Turney, ſaid I, I ſhould never be tired of you; but I have a notion that you will ſhortly be weary of me. Have you heard any thing of your Felix lately?—Of Felix, of Felix, madam! what may you mean by that queſtion? and ſhe thruſt her eyes into me with an inquiſitive and ſearching gaze.——Why, a ſhip from the Eaſt Indies is juſt come up the river; ſo we may learn ſomething about him,—perhaps he came in the very veſſel. I have heard of many inſtances where ſhips have been wrecked, and only one or two eſcaped; and who knows but that Providence may have preſerved your

Felix

Felix to you, in reward of your filial and conjugal piety.

Ah, ſhe cried, you know more of this matter, or you would not intimate ſo much. Tell me, tell me, does he live, is he arrived, is he landed, where is he, madam, tell me quickly? and ſhe caſt a look around, as wanting to catch him within her eyes, and her boſom roſe and fell with alternate and difficult heavings.

Mrs. Turney, ſaid I, if you do not ſettle yourſelf to ſome reaſonable compoſure, you ſhall not hear a ſyllable more from me, I aſſure you.—Well madam, I am quiet; do you not ſee that I am quiet?—Then I have to inform you, that your huſband is actually alive, that he is in England, and that I have ſeen and ſpoken to him. But, one would imagine you wiſh never to ſee him; and want to kill yourſelf out of the way, to prevent the interview.—And what care

I,

I, madam, if I never ſet eyes upon him? ſhew his dear children to him, however, I beſeech you!

Here ſhe fell into a fit of weeping and ſobbing; and I ſat ſilent and attending, till I obſerved that her tears had afforded her ſome relief.

Mrs. Turney, ſaid I, if you will not be pacified, I proteſt I will ſend your Felix back to town without ſuffering him to ſee you. Ah, ſhe cried, then he is here; and ſhe ſtarted ſuddenly up, ſtared wildly about, and flew to the door; but I got to it before her, and, gently puſhing her back with both my hands, prevailed upon her to be reſeated.

Yes, my friend, ſaid I, your huſband is here; but, I will not have any deaths, or ſwoonings, or hyſterics, to anſwer for: ſo, here I take out my watch, and will ſit ſilent beſide you for five minutes; and

and if, in that time, you can bring yourſelf to any temper, I will go out and bring your Felix to you; but I muſt not have you, like a frantic, run into the ſtreets, and alarm and bring the neighbourhood upon us.

We then ſat together, without exchanging a ſyllable, till the term of the five minutes preſcribed had paſſed. I hope you are ſatisfied at laſt, ſaid ſhe; I promiſe you now to ſee him without any emotion, juſt as though I met any other indifferent perſon. — Very well; keep quiet a while where you are, and I will not hold you long in waiting.

I left her ſitting, and walked from her at my leiſure. I then moved ſoberly down ſtreet till I got in ſight of Mr. Turney, where his head and ſhoulders were thruſt impatiently out at the carriage-windows. I beckoned to him, and he ſprung out and flew to meet me.

Soft ſir, ſaid I, ſtopping him; we are not yet out of danger: reſtrain your tranſport, I pray you. I then told him of the fits that his wife had been in, and that my apprehenſions on her account were far from being over. So, I ſtepped on leiſurely before him toward the houſe, while he followed in a kind of bridled agitation.

I entered and perceived that ſhe ſtill ſat quiet in her chair; but her eyes had not loſt their wildneſs, and they went out eagerly in ſearch of ſomething behind me.

At length Felix half made his appearance. Ah, there he is, ſhe ſcreamed out, and inſtantly ſprung up; but ſunk down again, faint, pale, and panting, upon her chair. Immediately I applied my ſalts, and called for cold water; while Felix was on his knees, reflecting

the paleneſs of her own countenance before her.

In a quarter of an hour we brought them to ſpeech, in ſomething more to motion, and motion roſe to rapture.

No delicate motive was left me for retiring, on this occaſion, leſt my preſence ſhould put a reſtraint on the freedom of my friends; they heeded me not, they ſaw me not, they did not ſeem to know that they had any concern with any one upon earth, except each other. My Letty, do I indeed, do I once more ſee you, my Letty? Waken me not, ſaid ſhe; I am in a ſweet dream of my love. I ſee and touch my Felix, as he were living before me; thouſands and thouſands of leagues his dear ghoſt has come, to take his laſt leave of me before he goes for ever.

O, madam,

O, madam, what kind of a frame is this frame of our mortality? We die with pain; we die with pleaſure; we can bear nothing in exceſs. We turn away from things indifferent, as from half cold and palled victuals; and yet, when our ſenſations riſe to a certain pitch, the degree becomes quite inſufferable whatever its nature may be. Imagination, like an executioner of the pitileſs inquiſition, keeps his rack ever in readineſs; he ſtretches us thereon at pleaſure, and ſtrains the cords, and we lie panting and expiring beneath the tenſion.

All our paſſions, ſaid the COUNTESS, are very perilous in their extremes. Yet, I will anſwer for you, my JULIET; you would rather be melted and exhaled away by the warmth and intenſeneſs of love, than to be frozen and ſqueezed to death by the preſſure of the ſelfiſh paſſions in the frigid zone.

Quite

Quite the contrary, my deareſt madam, cried miſs GRENVILLE: I am under no apprehenſion from what the influence or power of hatred, envy, or covetouſneſs, with all the malignant paſſions joined together, can do unto me; but, do I ſet love at defiance in the ſame manner? O, no! Thence aroſe all my calamities, all my ſufferings, all my anguiſh; and ſad experience aſſures me, that I have nothing elſe to fear.

My dear girl, rejoined the COUNTESS, I never knew you iniquitous or ungrateful before. Love is your conſtituent eſſence; it had more to do in your compoſition than the Graces themſelves. Thoſe, who ſhare not the thouſandth dividend of your amiable affections, have no other ingredient, ſave their ſingle drop of love, to ſweeten all the antipathies and bitterneſs of life. The ſpirits, that are conformed to the image of the God of Love, can reliſh no pleaſure, but the pleaſure of

loving: it is the tuning and informing touch of every ſpecies of virtue. All that deſerves the name of ſentiment, is no other than ſome mode or feeling of its bliſsful inſpiration; and in death, as in life, there is no other true conſolation or delight.

What you allege, ſaid miſs GRENVILLE, may and will have, I truſt, its reality and bleſſedneſs in a future ſtate: and I ardently wiſh, that your ladyſhip may enjoy all the ſweets of love, even here upon earth, without any of its bitter poignancy; the roſe without the prickle, and the honey without the ſting. For myſelf, I muſt be honeſt enough to avow, that the doctrine which you teach has not anſwered to my feelings. We are equally enjoined to weep with thoſe who weep, as to rejoice with thoſe who rejoice; but, how rare, how very rarely do we meet the objects of our rejoicing; while the ſubjects for lamentation ſur-

round

round us on all ſides, and meet us at every corner? The greater the fund of our human affections, the greater and more enlarged is our apparatus for wretchedneſs; and if, as your ladyſhip inſiſts, there is an advantage in thoſe propenſities, I become like that Tarpeia, of whom it is written that ſhe ſunk and periſhed under the weight of the treaſures that were heaped upon her. But, no more on the ſubject of myſelf, I beſeech you; it is a ſubject of all ſubjects the moſt ungrateful to me.

And ſo, madam, as I meant to tell you, the over joyous Letitia and her moſt happy Felix began, at length, to look about them, and perceived, with ſome confuſion, that there were other people in the world beſide themſelves. When I had laughed at the apologies they made for their inattention, I called the boys in and introduced them to their father. The eldeſt remembered ſome-

thing of him, and ſoon became familiar; but the reſt looked cold and ſtrange at him, and appeared diſguſted at the liberties he took with their mother.

Mrs. Turney, ſaid I, I ſhall not think of leaving you, till I hear how your ghoſt of a huſband has got his new clothes of fleſh and blood upon him; as alſo how many more children he purpoſes to have, before he ſets out on his next voyage. O madam, ſaid he laughing, my Letty may hereafter breed as faſt as ſhe pleaſes; we have wherewithal to provide for her and her ſucceeding generations.

If that is the caſe, ſaid I, I beſpeak myſelf a meſs-mate at your family dinner to-day, on condition that nothing enters your doors for the purpoſe.—Madam, I have freſh greens from my own garden, freſh eggs from my own hens, fine pullets of my own rearing, and excellent bacon of my own curing.

Enough,

Enough, enough, I cried, no more of your dainties!—Step, Mrs. Turney, ſet your maid to work, and return as faſt as you can, that we may enter on the firſt part of this gentleman's romance; when dinner has put us into ſpirits and good humour, we may be able to reliſh the remaining fruits of his invention, by way of deſert.

Our Letty ſoon returned, and then our Felix launched out on the wide ocean of his adventures, ſteering here and weathering there, with a long rhodomontade of tacking and ſlacking, of ſtarboard and larboard, and of the canaries, and the capes, where their faireſt maidens adorn their beauties with bracelets of the very ſtuff whereof our fiddleſtrings are made.

At length, ſaid he, we came within thirty leagues of Fort St. George, to which we were bound. But, O madam,

he cried, with a tender and touching apoſtrophe, the farther and the farther I went from home, the more I felt my ſoul and yearning vitals pulled back toward the other parts of myſelf, toward my eſpouſed and her helpleſs infants whom I left behind me. My heart ſunk inward to the centre, and riſing again cried, O thou, who feedeſt the young ravens; thou numberer of the hairs, and watcher over the ſparrows; thou who ſupplieſt every worm that creeps within thy graciouſneſs; take my little ones alſo, even my helpleſs little ones, to thy keeping, I beſeech thee! And ſo he liſtened to my prayer from a thouſand leagues off; and he ſent this his angel, who now ſits before me, not only to take charge of thoſe for whom I prayed, but to provide for her alſo of whom I knew not: that, under him, we might all be beholden to her alone, and become her willing ſervants henceforward and for ever.

Mrs.

Mrs. Turney wept in ſilence, and Felix wiped his eye and proceeded.

The day had been fine; breezy, though exceeding hot; but night came on with a lowring and angry aſpect. The winds began to ruſtle through our ſhrouds; and ſqualls came on us, at intervals, with ſuch a ſudden fury, as nearly overſet us before we could lower our ſails. Apprehenſion quickly ſpread through every countenance on board; and thoſe, who feared leaſt, caught additional terror from the pannic that was viſible in the faces of their fellows.

As the night darkened, the ſtorm grew ſtronger and ſteadier. The wind blew to ſhore; but we ſet more hands to the ſteerage, and kept aloof as much as poſſible, till the tempeſt roſe to ſuch a height, that we were obliged to cord the helm to the ſide of the ſhip.

Though drowning, as I think, madam, is the ſpeedieſt and leaſt painful of all kinds of death, yet, in its approaches, it is, of all others, the moſt formidable and terrifying. We were now within about eight leagues of land: the waves boiled and divided, and mounting and daſhing down again, they tore the ſands and earth from the bottom of the ocean; then ſcaling the very heavens, they mixed and confounded all the elements together, while the whole appeared as Milton's hell, where ſatan and his hoſt lay weltering in waves of liquid fire.

I was then ſummoned to the great cabin. Captain Jenniſon, of late, had ſhewn me particular kindneſs, and cauſed me to dine at his own table and to lie in his own apartment. He ſat at a table with a paper newly written before him. Felix, ſaid he, with a firm voice, draw near, ſit down there before me. We are in greater danger, Felix, than our peo-

ple

ple imagine. The natives of this coaſt are barbarous to the laſt degree; and, ſhould we weather the ſtorm, they will do their very utmoſt to make a wreck of our ſhip if they do not find it ſo. I have, therefore, been providing againſt the worſt that can happen. Take ſome ſtout hands with you, and let down the longboat; and make the beſt of your way, by ſea or land, to the garriſon, that they may keep along the coaſt, and preſerve us and our effects from becoming a prey to the barbarians.

In the mean time, my dear Felix, I have ſomething to ſay to you, before I bid you adieu, perhaps for ever!

Your care and tenderneſs toward me, in my late illneſs, though I did not ſay much of the matter, made a deep impreſſion upon me, ſuch indeed as will never leave the bottom of my heart. You can weep, my Felix; you have a

tear for friendſhip, and a tear alſo for affliction; and juſtice, as well as courage, dwells ſureſt with humanity: I have, therefore, appointed you ſole controuler of all my worldly affairs.

This is my will, Felix, which I commit into your hands, as alſo this my pocket-book of bills on the India merchants. If you periſh, with theſe, I have ſtill my cheſt of ſilver on board; and I may have my bills renewed according to this ſchedule, or reclaim the value on my return to England. But, if I periſh and you ſurvive, you will then diſcharge your truſt with honour; I doubt it not, no more than I doubt my own exiſtence.

All my relations are compriſed in an elder brother and a younger ſiſter. My brother is vaſtly rich, but rude and unnatural; and the nearer I was to him in blood, the more he looked upon me as an alien,

and

and thruſt me from him; ſo I have cut him off with a ſhilling. My ſiſter is a weak girl who threw herſelf away on one Fulmer, my father's clerk, and they keep a little ſhop of grocery in Redriff; and ſo I leave them to your diſcretion and the directions of my will.—God preſerve us, the hurricane grows higher and higher!—Do not look at the will now, Felix; if we meet again upon earth, there will be room enough for acknowledgments. But time preſſes; you muſt haſte to land, if we can get any who are brave enough to accompany you. In heaven, at the fartheſt, I will thank you for your love and kindneſs to your Jeniſon.

So ſaying, we threw our arms about each other, with a ſtrait embrace; and we wept as it were in a hurry, for I was not able to ſpeak.

We then got upon deck. They all crowded about us; and the captain proclaimed, as loud as the winds would let him, a hundred guineas reward to every man, who would venture on ſhore for the ſaving of the company's ſhip.

A general ſilence enſued. But, when I ſtood forth and offered myſelf to the enterprize, a few voices, here and there, echoed to my aſſent. We then flung out the boat, and twelve of us, with the utmoſt difficulty and danger, got in. So, we inſtantly put to ſea; and gave and got the laſt chear that either party was to get on this ſide of eternity.

All things raged above us, beneath us, and about us, as though it were the final rack and wreck of nature herſelf. I gave myſelf for loſt, and I boldly ſeized the rudder. For I no longer feared a death that I ſaw was inevitable, and which I deemed, in part, to be already over.

over. So, deſperation ſtood me in the place of courage and reſolution, and I neither looked up nor prayed for any kind of deliverance. I only whiſpered, within myſelf, and ſaid,

Lord, thou knoweſt that I know I am vile, exceedingly vile; and that I am not able to make myſelf better in life or in death, either now or in futurity. But, all hearts are in thy hands, in thy forming and moulding: even, out of this heart of ſtone, thou canſt raiſe up a ſon unto faithful Abraham; thou canſt do it as inſtantly, as thou canſt do it effectually. Shall death then preclude or bar thee from thy influence or operation? No, ſurely! Life and death, time and eternity, are equally in thy guidance and governance. Tear me then from my own will, and from my own ways. I turn from them, I deteſt them; but they ſtill cleave to me. At any coſt, O, rend me unto thyſelf, I beſeech thee! Wrap me into the

the whirlwind throughout thine own immenſity; plunge me down to the boiling bottom of thy ſeas and thy oceans; precipitate me into the flames whoſe fire is not quenched! but finally, O thou Redeemer, catch me to thyſelf, and make me altogether ſuch as thou wouldeſt have me to be!

Quick as thought, even before the ſhort proceſs of my petition was ended, a ſolidity of confidence and peace came upon me; and I ſat, as I thought, unmoved within the toſſing, and calm amidſt the tempeſt.

I kept ſteering aloof from ſhore as much as the wind would permit, that I might approach as near as poſſible to the fortreſs. At length we ſtruck upon a ſhoal; and inſtantly we were overſet and overwhelmed in the waters.

My

My preſence of mind, however, did not forſake me: as I aroſe, my arm ſtruck againſt ſomething that was hard; and catching at it, I found a large oar within my gripe. Immediately I graſped it at the centre with both my hands, and gave myſelf to be carried whither the winds and the waves liſted.

Wave, after wave, came tumbling over me; but I ſtill kept my hold, and roſe again to recruit my breath. At length my foot touched ground, and I ſtood and panted a while, but gave myſelf up to the following billow that bore me farther toward land; and this I did ſucceſſively, till I was paſt the power of the waters. I then lifted my heart and eyes in thanks to heaven; and again I dropped a tear to the memory of each of my late comrades.

The moon now began to riſe, the clouds fled, and the winds fell before the

ſerene majeſty of her countenance. I perceived and purſued a path that led on, within ſight of ſhore; and, by dawning, I got within view of the fort.

I had folded and put the captain's will into his pocket book, which I had buttoned up, next my boſom, within ſide my ſhirt and waiſtcoat, ſo that the papers were ſafe from any damage by the waters.

Immediately I alarmed the fort, and the ſoldiers and inhabitants came forth and lined the coaſt. I ſtrained my eyes towards the ſea, but alas no ſhip appeared in ſight. At length, a man, who had a perſpective, ſaid he ſaw ſomething, at a great diſtance, lying motionleſs on the ſurface of the water.

We then got out a ſloop in haſte, and with ſail and oars made directly to the place. Alas, it was indeed the ſtem of

our

our great veſſel that ſtuck faſt in a bank of ſand; while the reſt of the ſhip was ſtaved and ſunk, or borne away by the current.

We threw up our grapplings and ſcaled the deck, which ſtood high above the water that was now at ebb. O, my God, how inſignificant, in thy ſight, are the labours of men, and the treaſures he ſo prizes, when all were, here, ſo profuſely caſt away!

We found the great cabin ſtill full of water; ſo we bored the planks on either ſide, and let the water run. We then deſcended, and found captain Jenniſon's great cheſt, and mine, with all the cheſts of the principal officers, the initials of whoſe names were fixed thereon in letters of braſs nails. All theſe I claimed for the reſpective proprietors and their repreſentatives, and then gave up the reſt

of

of the wreck, as matter of free prize, to thoſe who had accompanied me.

It was wonderful to ſee with what force and agility they, in a few minutes, tore up the flooring and ſides of the ſtate room. They brought to light the captain's hampers and ſtore of wines, with numberleſs effects that they pulled from the ſide boxes, or heaved from the bottom; while each of them turned a grudging eye on his fellow, as fearing that he had found a richer hoard than himſelf.

The tide now began to riſe; and having cleared the wreck of all that was portable, we heaved down the cheſts and other valuables, and ſtowing them in the ſloop, ſet out on our return.

I wept the whole way, and I cried to myſelf, O my Jenniſon, my friend Jenniſon, why was it not allowed me to periſh

periſh in thy place? I would willingly have died for thee, my friend, my friend!

On our landing, what with hunger, fatigue, and grief, I took to my bed, and did not riſe for upward of three weeks.

On my recovery, I produced the captain's will. His hand was known by ſome in the fort, and by ſeveral in Madraſs, more particularly his large ſeal of the ſwan; ſo that I was admitted his lawful executor, and found but little difficulty in negotiating his bills.

Soon after, I joined the Engliſh under the gallant colonel Clive, who honoured me with his notice in a few ſmall ſkirmiſhes, and thereupon preſented me with a lieutenant's commiſſion.

I at-

I attended cloſe to his perſon at that memorable action, where ſix hundred Engliſh and about fifteen hundred ſea-poys diſcomfited an army of two hundred thouſand men; and where our general was ſaid to have acquired immenſe riches by the pillage of the Nabob's tent. Indeed, we all got ſufficient, if any meaſure could be aſſigned to that which would ſuffice; for covetouſneſs is as a fire, that encreaſes, widens, and rages, the more for being fed.

On the ſecond day of the purſuit, we came up with one of the enemy who appeared to be faint and dying by the way, and ſome of thoſe about me were eager to diſpatch him; but I reſtrained them and cried, What are ye about my friends? He no longer can be your enemy, who no longer can reſiſt you; much leſs can he be an enemy who wants your aſſiſtance, who requires an act of friendſhip at your hands.

I then

I then demanded of the unhappy man what ailed him? when, giving me a languid look, and raiſing his feeble hand to his pale and trembling lips, he intimated that he was dying of extreme thirſt. As each of us had a leathern bottle of water ſlung by his ſide, I offered money to any one who would give him to drink; but my offers and entreaties were rejected by all. I then put my own bottle into his hand, when, raiſing it to his head, he ſtayed not till he had turned the bottom to the zenith.

At firſt he ſeemed ſomething revived, and attempted at utterance; but the draught had overcome him; his breath came quick and ſhort, and, finding himſelf going, he caught my hand haſtily, put ſomething into it, gave it a grateful ſqueeze, and expired.

I know not why it is, that our love encreaſes toward thoſe, to whom we have endeavoured

endeavoured to do a benefit. I found myſelf affected by the fate of this ſtranger; I dropt a tear over him, bid him a mournful adieu, and haſtened after my company.

On coming within ſight of them, I ſtopt to look at the bequeſt of my late friend. It was a ſmall ivory box, and contained a number of diamonds, to the value of about ſix hundred pounds in England, but not of near that eſtimation in the country of the Nabobs. Lord, ſaid I, with lifted eyes, if it is thus that thou rewardeſt thoſe who barely yield to thine own dictates within their boſom, even the lovers of mammon would find themſelves intereſted in becoming the lovers of thy graciouſneſs alſo!

On the afternoon of the third day of our purſuit, my whole company being with me, an Indian came running and informed

informed us that he could lead us to a rich booty, provided we engaged to give him a proportionable ſhare. The bargain was quickly ſtruck, and we ſet on in haſte.

We had not marched far, when, looking to the right, I ſaw a ſumptuous houſe, and, in a lawn that fronted the building, a litter overturned, with a bundle of ſomething that glittered lying beſide it. I inſtantly turned, and my people, in hope of plunder, willingly followed me. But, when we arrived, we found that the bundle, which my men had propoſed to themſelves as prize, was no other than a lady richly dreſſed, and wounded, and weltring in her own blood. She turned to us with a lovely but very pale face, and with a pair of eyes that ſhewed as luminaries in eclipſe.

My heart was ſtruck with as ſtrong compaſſion, as though ſhe had been my ſiſter.

ſiſter. I addreſſed her, and ſhe anſwered me in very intelligible Engliſh. She told me, in ſhort ſentences, that her mother had been a European; that tidings came that morning of her noble huſband being killed in the late action; and that the Engliſh and their adherents were in hot purſuit: that, thereupon, ſhe and her domeſtics collected, in a hurry, whatever was moſt valuable and portable in the houſe; but that they had not travelled two hundred paces before her ſervants conſpired againſt her, left her for dead on the ſpot, and ſeized and carried off all her treaſure.

I groaned inwardly for the condition of human nature ſo depraved, and promiſed her all the relief in our power. But my myrmidons began to murmur, and one of them cried, Since her treaſures are gone, we have nothing farther to ſay to her. Damn it, ſaid a ſecond, the pitiful heart of our captain would make

make beggars of us all. Ay, exclaimed a third, it is happy for others that he is not their leader; were he commander in chief, the whole army would be brought to nothing by his qualms about ſpoiling the ſpoiled, and oppreſſing the oppreſſed, Will you come with us, ſir, cried a fourth, or will you allow us to go without you? Ay, go all, who will, to the devil, I cried; ſuch followers are beſt ſuited to ſuch a leader!

At the word, away they ſcampered, all, ſave three who had been more particularly attached to my perſon. I had learned ſome little matter of ſurgery during our long voyage; ſo I examined the lady's wounds, and found ſhe had received a large cut on the head, a ſtab in the neck, and another in her boſom. I turned haſtily aſide, and tearing a large part of my ſhirt into pieces, I bound up her wounds, and replacing her in the litter, we joined to carry her gent-

ly toward her own houſe. Alas, ſhe cried, with a languid but affectionate look, I am deſtroyed by my own people, and an enemy wiſhes to ſave me.

As pity had fixed my eye on her faded countenance, I obſerved that ſhe altered farther on our approach to the houſe. Stop, ſtop, ſhe faintly ſaid, your charity comes too late; carry me into yonder garden, and lay me in my laſt bed. Go on, till you come to the great mulberry-tree.

We did as directed, and ſtopped at the tree. Here, ſhe whiſpered, and feebly pointed with her finger, here will I lie till the trumpet ſhall call death to life! —Dig my grave here, ſir; but dig it deep, till you find my coffin—and my coffin—ſhall reward—the living—for—his kindneſs to—the dead.

Thoſe

Thoſe were the laſt words ſhe uttered; when, cloſing her fine eyes, ſhe gave a weakly ſigh, and lay cold and breathleſs.

Immediately I ſent my companions to ſearch the houſe for inſtruments to prepare her grave, while my eyes paid the tribute that is due to mortality. They ſpeedily returned, and we ſet about the work. Come friends, ſaid I, you think this but heavy buſineſs, while your fellows, as you imagine, are gathering treaſures in the field; but the work of humanity is a very ſweet work, and charity carries a rich reward, a pearl of mighty price within its own boſom: however, if that will not ſuffice, I will, from my own purſe, make your wages at leaſt equivalent to what your comrades ſhall glean.

They, thereupon, began to aſſiſt me with alacrity; for neither they nor I had

founded the ſlighteſt expectation on the myſtical promiſe of the reward in the coffin.

On digging and caſting up the clay to a conſiderable depth, I conceited that the earth began to ſound hollow and tuneful; and ſoon after we found an impenetrable reſiſtance. We then conceived new hopes, and ſhoveled up the mould apace, till we uncovered the ſurface of a large cheſt. Having cleared about it with much labour, we endeavoured to raiſe it; but our joint force proved unequal to the attempt. My men then haſted to the houſe with incredible expedition, and brought implements for wrenching open the lid. This we ſoon effected; but, what was our aſtoniſhment, when we ſaw the cheſt quite full of the ſilver coin of all the European countries; a treaſure which the proprietor had probably hidden there, as a matter

matter of reſource in caſe of devaſtation by war or famine.

The tranſports of my companions reached nearly to frenzy; but my joy was much abated by caſting an eye down to the generous donor, and reflecting that ſhe lay inſuſceptible of any return of gratitude or ſervice.

The queſtion now occurred, by what method we ſhould be enabled to carry this vaſt weight of wealth? ſo my aſſociates flew once more to the houſe, in order to ſearch for means of conveyance. In ſome time after, they returned, bringing a number of bags of coarſe ſacking; and alſo leading two dromedaries, which they had found in the ſtables, and had accoutered with panniers.

This anſwered all our purpoſes. So we began to fill the bags, and ſtow them into the panniers; and, having at length

emptied the cheſt, we decently depoſited our patroneſs therein, returned the mould into the cavity, bid adieu to her honoured remains, and departed.

As the cattle were heavy laden, we returned ſlowly by a road that led to our encampment; where, at length, we arrived without any obſtruction, or even meeting a ſingle native on the way, ſuch a general pannic had ſpread throughout the country.

I then called my three adherents aſide, and rewarded their attachment, till two of them cried, enough! and deſired me to ſtay my hand.

I now was rich to the height of my wiſhes, and much tranſcending my ambition. So I ſighed to be at home, that I might impart to the choſen of my ſoul and her little ones; but no veſſel was then on the paſſage for England.

Mean

Mean while, with the aſſiſtance of ſome mercantile friends, I diſpoſed of all my treaſures to good advantage; and, in exchange, laid up ſtores of ſuch commodities as I was adviſed were moſt vendible in the London market; and ſo was prepared to ſet off in the firſt ſhip.

At this very time it happened, very unfortunately as I then ſuppoſed, that the enemy broke the truce; and, without any declaration or notice of hoſtility, came by night upon Calcutta, ſurpriſed and took it, and maſſacred the ſoldiery and all the inhabitants, without mercy, or diſtinction of age or ſex. They then invaded the Carnatic, a territory that had been ceded to the company by compact, and waſted all before them with fire and ſword.

This gave a general alarm to the Engliſh and their adherents, and diſpatches were ſent on all ſides to bring

our forces together. Alas, thought I, how is it that no laws nor inſtitutions of any kind, neither covenants nor compacts, nor bulwarks or barriers, can be a barrier to the peaceful againſt the diſturber, can afford any aſylum to the merciful and humane from the butchery and depredation of the children of perdition?

My wiſhes and ſentiments roſe in arms, and were divided againſt each other on this occaſion. I longed to be at home; but was provoked to the laſt degree by the treachery and cruelty of thoſe barbarians. The war was now a juſt and conſcientious war; retaliation became a duty; and I farther feared, that the little character I had gained would be charged with cowardice, ſhould I quit the ſervice at the time of the greateſt need. Colonel Wood alſo offered me the command of a battalion of five hundred ſeapoys; and this farther determined

determined me to commit myſelf to the keeping of that power, who had preſerved me in more imminent perils; and ſo I engaged in the ſervice with more alacrity than ever.

When we had collected a body ſufficient for taking the field, we marched to obſtruct the farther progreſs of the enemy. On the third night, we pitched within a few miles of their army; and, ſetting out before day, we got round under the ſhelter of a long range of rocks, and with a ſhout ſuddenly broke upon their left flank. This threw them into ſuch inſtant terror and confuſion, that they had not leiſure to form, or even think of their defence.

During their aſtoniſhment, the carnage became incredible; and the blood ſpilt at Calcutta, was refunded many fold: but, after a ſhort and feeble reſiſtance, they broke over their own entrenchments;

and, while the braveſt among them kept faceing and firing upon us as we followed, the remaining body of their army got clear off.

However, the ſpirit of revenge was ſtill ſo predominant in us, even ſo far above the ſpirit of avarice, that we ſtayed not to rifle their camp; but, leaving a party to guard it, we made a forced march after them. The day grew extremely hot, beyond any thing, I believe, that ever was felt under the downright beams of the torrid zone. We had a number of cattle with us; but all, ſave a few, were employed in carrying our tents and proviſions. It was at my option to ride, like ſome others among the principal officers, and, in truth, I was much importuned to do ſo; nay my ſeapoys had grown ſo fond of me, that they offered to carry me in a palanquin, or even upon their ſhoulders; but I was deaf to all their entreaties.

What,

What, ſaid I to my ſoul, ſhall I be raiſed above my fellows in honour and in office, and yet debaſe myſelf below the leaſt in patience and endurance? No, forbid it manhood; let my ſufferings rather be proportioned to my elevation! So, on I footed it with my fellows, which ſo endeared me to them that they ſeemed to gather freſh action and ability from my example; and the following battalions ſcarce kept us in ſight.

But O, that day, that inſufferable day! we found thouſands of the enemy dead or gaſping before us: our own ranks alſo began to thin; numbers fainted by the way; and the very dogs that accompanied us, ſunk down and expired.

At length our water was exhauſted, and our thirſt became intenſe. We then applied to the wells, to which our guides led us; but our enemies had filled them with the rank bodies of their dead. Ne-

ceſſity, however, compelled us to ſwallow a portion of the nauſeous and abhorred draught, and this ſupported us in a meaſure; till, having marched about ſix leagues from the late ſcene of action, we came in ſight of the enemy, who again ſtood to their arms, and were arranged in battle array on the farther ſide of the river Jumna.

However formidable this ſight, to men ſo wholly fatigued and already ſatiate of ſlaughter, the ſight of the river adminiſtered inſtant tranſport and vigour in expectance; inſomuch, that I could ſcarce reſtrain my few followers from ruſhing down upon the front of the adverſe army.

I with-held them, however, more by entreaties than commands, till colonel Wood arrived with the main body. When, after a ſhort halt, and a few minutes taken in forming, the word was given

given for marching againſt the enemy; and, in the very inſtant, all ranks were broken and mixed like buſtlers in a crowded market; and down they ruſhed together, as by one conſent, and precipitated themſelves into the river, without throwing away a thought on the adverſe army, that kept a hot and continued fire upon us from the oppoſite ſide. However, little damage was done, as we were deep in the water, or in a ſtooping poſture: and, having ſlaked our thirſt, we forded the paſs, charged them briſkly, and put them to inſtant flight. We then entrenched on the field they left us, with the river at our rear; and, with the help of our fatigue, ſlept ſoundly till morning was far advanced.

By this time, the cattle with our baggage arrived, as alſo numbers of our men who had fallen from us by the way; and theſe we left with the wounded in our camp, and renewed our purſuit after the

the enemy. We had not gone above a hundred paces, however, before they ſaved us the trouble of farther travel, and came down in full and orderly march upon us.

They had been largely reinforced from a country of the Morattoes, over which the gallant Aſthmet Ally was chief, being younger brother to Hyder Ally the renowned king of Miſore.

As ſoon as we came within ſight of each other, both armies halted and ſtood arranged in order of battle, without offering to advance on either ſide. The enemy, notwithſtanding their reinforcement and ſuperiority in numbers, ſeemed unwilling to attack men by whom they had been ſo often defeated; and, to ſay the truth on our own part, we would gladly have avoided the riſque of a battle, the loſs of which muſt have proved irretrievable

retrievable ruin in the midſt of an hoſtile country.

While I ſtood, advanced at ſome diſtance before my battalion, the young leader of the adverſe army, in order to encourage his men by his own example, mounted on a proud courſer came galloping toward me; and being within hearing, ſtopped his horſe and accoſted me in the muſſulman dialect, in which I had made a conſiderable progreſs.

Sir, ſaid he, a brave man will chuſe his enemy, as he would chuſe his friend, from among the brave; will you do me the honour to exchange a ſhot with me?

A challenge, in the face of both armies, was unavoidable; ſo, neceſſity ſerved me in the place of valour, and I anſwered that I accepted his propoſal with pleaſure, and thanked him for the unmerited honour he did me.

He

He then ſlew from his horſe, which he delivered to two ſilvered lacqueys, and advanced toward me with a piſtol in either hand; while I haſted to meet him, full of eſteem and affection for the man with whom I was mortally engaged.

Within the diſtance of about twenty paces, we fired, but without effect: we then approached nearer, and both our diſcharges took place; mine wounded him in the left arm, and his paſſed through my hat and razed the ſkin and hair of my left temple. He caſt away his piſtol, and, quick as lightning, drew upon me: Come on ſir, ſaid he; it is the ſword of honour, not of malice, that I draw. I engaged with reluctance, but he preſſed hard upon me. After ſeveral paſſes and defences, in the heat of the contention we happened to change places, ſo that Aſthmet fought with his back to the front of our army; when one of my own people, poſſibly through a miſ-

a miſtaken attachment to my perſon, came ruſhing from the line, and ſtabbed my adverſary in the back. Inſtantly I caught up a piſtol that lay beſide me, and hurling it at the wretch's head, ſtretched him ſenſeleſs on the field. Aſthmet perceived the action, and, ſtepping up, preſented me with the hilt of his ſword; You are the prince of honour, ſaid he, and, whether I live or die, I here deliver myſelf a willing priſoner to you. Ah, I cried, I take no priſoners by ſuch unworthy means; but, if you pleaſe, you ſhall be my gueſt and my brother, till your recovery is enſured.

I then took him under the arm and helped him to the lines, where, calling my ſurgeon and four of my ableſt fellows, we took him up between our arms, and, paſſing the ranks, bore him gently to our camp. There I had him to my own tent, and haſtily ſtripping him, we examined his wounds. While this was performing,

performing, he turned a grateful glance upon me, and ſmilingly ſaid, Methinks my noble friend, you are more fearful and anxious for me than I am for myſelf. Yes, my lord, ſaid I, for I fear for us both; ſhould your wound prove mortal, the ſtab given to my honour will be for ever incurable. Not ſo, he earneſtly cried, you have an honour that is invulnerable.

Happily, neither of his wounds proved dangerous, that in his back having glanced along a rib and ſtopped at the ſpinal bone; ſo, when they were both dreſſed, we put him to bed.

In the mean time, one of my ſeapoys came flying from the army. He told me that our general, obſerving the commotion the enemy were in, upon the ſuppoſed death or captivity of their leader, had given the word to advance; that, on the firſt volley, our adverſaries ſhewed

their ſhoulders; that the Engliſh were in hot purſuit; and that my ſoldiers beſought me to mount a horſe immediately, and to be with them as ſoon as poſſible.

Do, my friend, cried Aſthmet, pray do as they requeſt; I will not ſuffer your attention or partiality to me, to deprive you of any part of the glory or ſpoil of this day's action. This coaſt is extreamly wealthy, eſpecially along the river, where the opulent have fixed their ſeats of pleaſure.

And what glory, ſaid I, ſhall I acquire from the ſlaughter of a flying foe? Or what enjoyment may my ſoul hereafter find in wealth derived from the ruin of the unreſiſting; perhaps from the wreck of innocence, from the carnage and pillage of the ſons and daughters of peace? No, go all of you, who will! for me, I accept of nothing, ſave what honour

honour may ſeize upon and conſcience poſſeſs.

They took me at my word; they all vaniſhed in a hurry, except a few domeſtics and ſome invalids of my regiment.

The ſoul of Aſthmet was naturally noble and docile. He had the misfortune to be the native of a country that was the ſeat of an almoſt perpetual warfare; where murder, rape, and rapine, were authorized by cuſtom, and received a kind of ſanction from examples held in eſteem. He ſeemed, therefore, ſurpriſed at ſentiments, that ought to be the common ſentiments of all who pretend to be barely honeſt or humane.

Praiſed be Allha, he exclaimed, who this day preſerved the nobleſt of his works from an arm, heretofore, not unaccuſtomed to conqueſt! O, the leſſon,

the

the leſſon he has given me; it will never from my heart!—But, tell me, my friend, where did you acquire this exalted ſtrain of thinking and acting? Be not offended, when I tell you, that we look on your countrymen, as the moſt licentious and rapacious of all the human ſpecies. Were the caſe otherwiſe, they might long ſince have been the honoured ſovereigns of willing ſubjects, even of all India from Delly to Madraſs. But, to plunder the people who turn to you for protection, is but cold encouragement to farther ſubmiſſion.

I truſt, my lord, ſaid I, that you are either prejudiced or miſinformed in this matter. As to my own part, I am little ſkilled in landed intereſts or concerns; my life has been occupied almoſt wholly on the waters; and, I can avow to your highneſs, that my countrymen, throughout their kingdom of the ocean, are compaſſionate enemies, affectionate friends, and

and more than merely generous, they are laviſh to a fault.

Pray, ſaid he, have you any here who might be entruſted with a letter to my ſeat? it ſtands about five leagues hence, on the other ſide of the river. Alas, my heart bleeds this inſtant, for the terrors with which my fair Savinniè will be ſeized, when ſhe ſhall ſuddenly be told that her Aſthmet is numbered with the dead.

Yes, my lord, here are two active and loving domeſtics, for whoſe fidelity I will be anſwerable; and I will order for them the ſwifteſt horſes in all our camp, that they may ſave your lady the anguiſh of any foregoing tidings.

I thank you, ſir, ſaid he; they may ſerve, at the ſame time, to bring you back my ranſom: and pray ſpare not to rate it, as well according to my quality, as the obligations which I owe you.

As

As ſoon as I can be perſuaded that your highneſs is a priſoner, I will then demand a ranſom according to your value, and that will be high indeed; but, I will never be enriched by the treachery of my people. No, my lord, you are free, free as light or air; and, on the hour that you are in a condition to travel, I will eſcort you, with a convoy, to your own dominions.

He cloſed his eyes awhile; appeared grieved, confuſed, diſtreſſed; but anſwered not a ſyllable.

Immediately I ordered my ſervants to prepare, in haſte, for their expedition; and Aſthmet, calling for paper, wrote nearly in the following terms.

" Aſthmet Ally ſends greeting to the " bride of his ſpirit. He is wounded, " but not dangerouſly; and is in hands of " higher honour, and dearer affection, " than

" than ever he found in the midſt of his
" own country and kindred. In a few
" days, the light and delight of his eyes
" ſhall behold him; and, perhaps, may
" have the greater happineſs of behold-
" ing his generous preſerver.

" ASTHMET."

The END of the FIRST VOLUME.